

the 1980 Refugee Act, the landmark law creating our modern U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and asylum system. That legislation was passed overwhelmingly in the House and here in the Senate unanimously. In the decades since, both parties have worked together to provide refuge to exiled Cubans, displaced Haitians, dissident Chinese, and many other refugee populations feeling persecution and tyranny.

Most recently, as chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I worked again with Members of both parties to pass multibillion-dollar aid packages to fund our government's efforts to aid Afghan and Ukrainian refugees.

So it should come as no surprise that both parties have more often than not worked together to support refugees seeking to begin anew in the United States. The over 3 million refugees who have resettled in the United States over the past several decades have enriched our country economically and culturally. Refugees are entrepreneurs and job creators. They are active and committed. They are members of our communities. They are our neighbors and friends. Our Nation's history has been defined by refugees, from Albert Einstein, to Madeleine Albright. Their stories and the stories of the millions of other refugees who come to our shores are the American way.

Now, the Trump administration gave rise to a dark turn toward nativism and xenophobia, a jarring retreat from what has made America great. The hateful policies of the Trump administration, espoused first by the former President himself, aimed to demonize refugees and asylum seekers, to shut our doors to the persecuted and oppressed. These policies were shameful. They should be repudiated—repudiated forcefully by every Member of the Senate.

Now, there is much more to be done to rebuild our Nation's capacity and welcome and resettle refugees. I will continue fighting to defend and support refugees in my remaining months in the Senate, just as I have throughout my Senate career.

Today, though, I am hopeful. I see Vermonters coming together in aid of native Afghan and Ukrainian refugees over the past several months, and I am confident that America's highest ideals have not seen their last days. We, the American people, have not lost sight of our roots. We are still here, an imperfect but compassionate beacon of hope for the hopeless. We are still here, our torch held high.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

INFLATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, a little more than 2 years ago, with Republican policies in place, American workers and families were enjoying one of the best economic moments in a generation.

Unemployment was at a 50-year low. Inflation was very low at the same time. Our economy was growing robustly, and workers were reaping the benefits: Real wages were climbing. In fact, wages at the bottom of the income distribution were growing faster than that at the top. In other words, on our watch, working-class Americans were getting bigger percentage raises than their bosses.

Under these conditions, the American people were looking forward to the future. Satisfaction with the direction of our country was at a 15-year high. Consumer confidence was hovering near its highest level since 2000, and small business optimism had set an all-time record high.

Republican policies helped create that environment, from cutting red-tape to passing the most comprehensive tax cuts and tax reform in a generation.

Now, Democrats said the 2017 tax bill would not strengthen the economy and would starve the Federal Government of money, but we Republicans knew better. And sure enough, with our tax bill in place, Federal revenues are at historic levels. The past fiscal year's nominal corporate tax receipts were the highest they have been since 2007. Individual income tax receipts just hit an all-time record high as well, and they are on pace to climb even higher this year. Overall, Treasury Department revenues just recorded their largest 1-year surge in 44 years.

So that is what has happened since the 2017 tax reform that Democrats literally predicted would be "Armageddon": tax cuts for American families, record-setting tax revenues, and the best economy for working families in a generation prior to the pandemic. Unfortunately, most of our Democratic colleagues have a terrible track record when it comes to economic policies and predictions. The tax reform they called Armageddon preceded low inflation, high employment, and robust growth.

And what about on their watch?

Democrats setting policy on party lines decided on trillions of dollars in reckless spending. That has bought us the worst inflation in 40 years, anemic growth, and now, on top of all of that, the threat of rising unemployment and a possible recession.

Just as Senate Democrats were preparing to dump \$2 trillion in reckless spending on our economy, the Senate Democratic leader said:

I do not think the dangers of inflation, at least in the near term, are very real.

President Biden said:

The risk is not doing too much. The risk is not doing enough.

Secretary Yellen said:

[T]he price of doing too little is much higher than the price of doing something big.

Well, they were all wrong, and American families are paying dearly for it.

The Democratic leader claimed:

The dangers of undershooting our response are far greater than overshooting.

And:

We cannot do too little. We cannot lock our country into a long and slow recovery.

Well, if Democrats did not want a long recovery, mission accomplished. A long and steady recovery with stable prices, rising real wages, falling unemployment, and strong growth would have been exactly what the doctor ordered, but the Democrats' policies helped take that option entirely off the table for our country.

Instead, their decisions have fueled skyrocketing prices, a decline in Americans' real incomes, and cornered the Federal Reserve into having to raise rates sharply and potentially stop or reverse the recovery altogether.

So, faced with this mess, what is our all-Democratic government planning next? Are our colleagues admitting their mistakes and trimming back their appetites?

Unfortunately, not—just the opposite.

Even now, with the evidence of a historic, self-inflicted policy disaster piling up all around them, Democrats are reviving talks for yet another party-line taxing-and-spending spree this summer. Even with the economy teetering on the brink of a recession, even with families' real incomes already falling rapidly on their watch, Senate Democrats are reportedly behind closed doors, dreaming up—listen to this—historic new tax hikes to drop on top of our economy at the very worst possible time.

The same Democrats who wanted to pass trillions more in spending last year now want to rush through huge new tax hikes. The same party that spent 2021 trying to inflate their way out of inflation now wants to spend 2022 tax-hiking their way right into a recession. You could not invent—could not invent—a worse time for Washington Democrats to pile on new tax hikes on our country.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DURBIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, this week, we are celebrating the 50th

anniversary of title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. It says:

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

For 50 years, those words have changed the lives of American women and girls and their families for the better. As a mom, I was able to watch my daughter excel on a more level playing field, and I look forward to watching my granddaughter do the very same thing. Today, more women than ever are competing for the awards and scholarships once reserved for men. And wouldn't you know it—more women than men graduate from college. In short, title IX means something to women and girls in this country. It has opened countless doors of opportunity.

Today, I would like to invite all of my colleagues to join me in supporting a simple resolution celebrating the promise of title IX. It recognizes the 50th anniversary, it honors the work of women's rights activists who led the fight for equal treatment among men and women in education, and it encourages all women and girls in the United States to continue to pursue academic and athletic accomplishments if they so choose.

I thank my colleagues in advance for joining me as we celebrate the women and girls in this country and all of their beautiful potential.

INFLATION

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, the Senate is back in session, and still we have no indication from the White House or my Democratic colleagues that they have a plan to lower inflation.

Tennesseans are frightened. You would be, too, if you consistently found more month at the end of your paycheck than paycheck at the end of your month. It is getting harder to stretch the pennies and nickels and dimes, and talking points aren't going to fix this problem.

The White House keeps telling people that if they hang on just a little bit longer, they are going to be all right, but that is not how it works in the real world. In the real world, at a certain point, you run out of rope to hang on to.

People are looking at this transition economy, and they are saying: What are we transitioning to? It is not what they want for their economic future. It is no longer a matter of just trying to make things work; you just can't pay the bills anymore. The gas tank stays empty or you go to bed hungry.

Now, it is clear that Joe Biden and the Democrats know that the country has reached a tipping point, but rather than offering hope, they have settled into blaming everyone from congressional Republicans to foreign dictators

for the problem. That is not what the American people want to hear. They know who got us in trouble, and they know it wasn't Vladimir Putin; it was Joe Biden and the Democrats.

It is the people—the Democrats who are controlling every branch of government in this town. Yes, they have done it, and no amount of scapegoating will change the fact that the American people have been watching closely over the past year and a half, and they know things have gone terribly wrong.

The Biden administration abandoned our recovery, spent trillions on a reckless spending spree, and then panicked when all that spending caused record-high inflation. No, it is not temporary. The country doesn't need a pep talk; they need Joe Biden and the Democrats to reverse course before we fall into a recession, if we haven't done so already.

There are things the administration can do right now that will pull us back from the brink.

It is time to take the taxpayer-funded credit card away. The American people can't afford what the Democrats are selling, and they wouldn't want it even if they could afford it. They know this is wasteful, out-of-control, reckless spending.

Next, the President must stop expanding the size and power of the Federal Government. Stop hiring bureaucrats we don't need at salaries we can't afford to write regulations that only exist to take more money out of people's paychecks.

Democrats would also be wise to get the regulators we do have out of the way—especially when it comes to the energy sector—restart the Keystone XL Pipeline, and make America energy independent again. Go back to drilling in Alaska, offshore, fracking. Return it all so that we once again are energy independent.

Finally, there is something we can do right here in the Senate that would keep future spending and inflation in check. I have introduced legislation that would require a supermajority to pass a spending bill during times of high inflation. It is good common sense, so we should put it up for a vote.

It is time for each of us to go on the record and let the American people know what our priorities are. They are tired of what they are seeing coming out of Washington, DC. I am glad they are paying attention. I am so pleased that Tennesseans are paying closer attention now than ever before.

I do think that it is appropriate that President Biden, the White House, the executive branch, and the Democrats who are in charge of Capitol Hill go on the record and decide if they are going to stand with that "Build Back Broke" agenda, stand with the radical left, or are they going to stand for the prosperity and safety of the American people? Tennesseans know what the right answer would be.

Whether I am in church, whether I am out at one of the grandkids' sport-

ing event, whether I am at the MoonPie Festival in Bell Buckle, I hear it from everyone—this spending is out of control.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO CAROLE JOHNSON

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing Carole Johnson of Mineral County for her dedication to the Forest Service and her 50-plus years—50-plus years—of public service to the people of Montana.

Raised in Superior, MT, Carole graduated from Montana State University and joined the U.S. Forest Service in 1971. Carole started as a seasonal recreational employee on the Superior Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest and has since worked in nearly every facet of the Forest Service, including firefighting, logistics, silviculture, surveying, mining, and conservation education. In 2015, Carole was named "Superior District Ranger," the post she has held until retiring earlier this spring. According to most accounts, at the time of her retirement, Carole was the longest tenured Federal employee in the State of Montana.

Anyone who knows Carole will tell you that she exemplified the definition of a "public servant." For more than 50 years, she served her community with unmatched institutional knowledge and professionalism. She has been a voice of reason in debates over public lands management, emphasizing that forest management and conservation truly go hand in hand. As District Ranger, Carole worked tirelessly to increase the timber output on the Superior District to help benefit the local economy and support wildfire mitigation in the community.

Outside of her role at the Forest Service, Carole is active in her community. She serves on many boards, including the Mineral Community Hospital Board, the Mineral Fair Board, and the Glacier Country Tourism Board. Through her commitment to public service, it is clear that Carole has long been a well-respected and beloved member of the Mineral County community.

It is my honor to recognize Carole for her dedication to the Forest Service and her 50-plus years of public service to the great State of Montana.

Carole, thank you for your many years of public service and your commitment to improving our public lands and our forests. I wish you all the very best in your retirement. You truly make Montana proud.