

In 2017, I was elected to the same seat Julian Bond held in the Georgia State Senate. Nearly one year after being duly elected to serve, I was arrested inside the Georgia State Capitol while doing my job and standing with my constituents demanding that every vote be counted in November 2018.

As I watched the events unfold in Tennessee, the parallels struck me and reminded me that free speech in this country doesn't always apply to Black voices like mine.

Free speech is at the foundation of any healthy democracy and it is the very thing Republicans in Tennessee chose to shut down when they expelled Representatives Jones and Pearson. This should sound an alarm for every American because as history teaches us, actions that go unchecked only repeat themselves—again, and again, and again.

Though Representatives Jones and Pearson were rightfully reappointed to their seats, we cannot ignore the fact that what happened in Tennessee was yet another blow in the continued assault on democracy. And on top of it, the expulsions were completely out of step with the voices of the people—an overwhelming majority of Americans agree that common-sense gun safety laws are necessary to save lives.

We have a moral responsibility to reject any and all actions that threaten our democracy, particularly those targeted toward Black people and communities who have systemically been silenced for far too long.

Tonight, I stand with my Congressional Black Caucus colleagues to say 'no more.' That's why I've co-sponsored Representative SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE's resolution condemning the expulsions of Representatives Justin Jones and Justin Pearson from the Tennessee Legislature, and I encourage all of my colleagues who claim to stand on the side of democracy to do the same.

CHINESE INVOLVEMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BEAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to stand before you and lead this Special Order tonight.

I have a message. That message is our Nation's higher education system is being purchased and manipulated by the Chinese Communist Party.

America needs a wake-up call. I thought that wake-up call would come in the form of a Chinese spy balloon. If it was the Chinese spy balloon sent to wake us up, it seems that America has hit the snooze button.

A few weeks ago, several members of the Education and the Workforce Committee were briefed on the scheme, the

manipulation of the Chinese Communist Party on higher education in the USA, and we were all shocked. It was a shocking report, and we wanted to share the truth of how China is infiltrating and taking control over higher education in the United States.

Since 2013, \$12 billion has poured into our higher education system from foreign sources. China is by far the largest of foreign donations since that time.

Between 2013 and 2020, U.S. universities accepted nearly a billion dollars from Chinese donations. The tuition paid by Chinese students is estimated to be over \$12 billion per year. It is time we look at this influence and take it seriously.

It started over 20 years ago, Mr. Speaker, that China has been playing this game of infiltration, manipulation, and trying to purchase influence. It started with this game they play that they call the Confucius Institutes. These centers teach Chinese languages and culture but avoid discussing China's widespread human rights abuses and present Taiwan as undisputed Chinese territory.

They are simply a propaganda machine funded and directed by the Chinese Government, and we haven't even gotten started on what they are stealing from us, Mr. Speaker.

Tonight, members of the Education and the Workforce Committee and other invited Members are going to tell the story of just how far China has been infiltrating our university system. You are going to hear how top colleges and universities have not fully reported donations from foreign sources, including that of the Chinese Government.

You are going to hear the administration is not enforcing existing laws requiring full reporting of these foreign sources.

Universities, in their desire to seek donations from the public, sometimes unexpectedly or overtly take money from foreign sources and, in this case, many times from the Chinese Government.

You are going to hear also how the United States is losing the technology edge that we have long enjoyed for many years in computing, science, and engineering, all kinds of energy sources where we were the dominant player, but now because of theft and China's influence in our university system, those edges in technology are now leaning China's way. You are going to hear about that.

□ 2045

So, Mr. Speaker, as we begin tonight, I just want to say that it is long overdue that we hear the truth and we are fully aware how bad China is.

I would first yield a few minutes to the chair of Education and the Workforce Committee, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BEAN for his leadership on the Education and the Workforce Com-

mittee and also his leadership in leading this Special Order tonight.

It is a very important issue to the people of the United States, and I am very proud of him for taking the leadership and putting this Special Order together.

Mr. Speaker, we are engaged in a new era of warfare with our foreign adversaries who are vying for influence and control not only over America but especially over America's postsecondary education system.

Losing on this 21st century battleground has serious consequences for free thought, economic competitiveness, and national security.

Foreign adversaries like the Chinese Communist Party have used power and monetary influence to infiltrate colleges and universities to grow their sphere of influence in American society.

Mr. Speaker, make no mistake: When we talk about China and its exertion of force and its exertion of power, we are not talking about the Chinese people. We are talking about the Chinese Communist Party, the CCP.

So let us be clear on that tonight so that nobody mistakes who we see as the enemy. It is the Chinese Communist Party.

At face value, foreign contributions coming into universities might seem harmless, but the reality is foreign money often comes with strings attached. We know with the CCP, there are always strings attached.

Every dollar that institutions accept from undisclosed foreign entities that do not share our Nation's values sends them deeper into a dangerous entanglement that undermines our Republic.

For years, this influence scheme has been going on, yet neither the Chinese Communist Party nor institutions of higher education have faced repercussions for their actions.

Indeed, during the Trump administration, it discovered \$6.5 billion in previously unreported foreign money to universities from adversarial countries.

For the first time, real progress was being made to hold institutions accountable for undisclosed contributions.

But mysteriously, when the Biden administration came into office, all progress toward discovering these contributions stopped.

The Department of Education is shirking its duty to enforce the law and has abandoned robust scrutiny of undisclosed foreign gifts and contracts that violate section 117 of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

Mr. Speaker, we have known since 1965 that the potential for damage done to our institutions through foreign contributions was possible.

Section 117 is the single most important enforcement tool at the Biden administration's disposal to protect against the threats posed by our foreign adversaries attempting to steal research and buy off students and faculty on our Nation's campuses.

Republicans have sent multiple letters to Secretary Cardona demanding answers about this foreign money. Yet, this administration continues its pattern of stonewalling Congress with limited and woefully insufficient responses.

This is a part of Congress' oversight responsibility, Mr. Speaker, and is not being done on a whim.

It is unacceptable that the Biden administration has exercised minimal effort to expose the lack of integrity happening at so-called "elite" institutions.

The possible consequences of the department's limited engagement are dire. Section 117 is effective only if it is enforced.

That is why congressional oversight is necessary to hold the Department of Education accountable to enforce the law.

We must fight money and coercion beginning with accountability and transparency. Without accountability and transparency, the Chinese Communist Party could win this new-age battle because America has been fighting with one hand tied behind its back.

Mr. Speaker, I say: No more. My Republican colleagues and I will not stop until we see rigorous enforcement of section 117 that hold the universities responsible and hold the Chinese Communist Party responsible for what it may be trying to do.

Mr. BEAN. Dr. FOXX, thank you so much. You are doing such a great job as chairman of Education and the Workforce. Thank you for the opportunity to serve on that committee.

Thank you for highlighting the decades-long campaign that has manifested into bigger problems for America by the Chinese Communist Party.

America's education system is being purchased and manipulated by China. Since 2013, \$12 billion has flooded in from foreign sources to U.S. colleges and universities, including more than a billion from communist China.

Rather than forcing colleges and universities to comply with reporting requirements under section 117 of the Higher Education Act, this administration is playing into the hands of the Chinese Communist Party by refusing to pursue enforcement.

For the past 2 years, Mr. Speaker, this administration has been trying to distract the American people of the very real threat China poses with its far-left policies. That ends tonight.

Up next to help spread the word of exactly how bad an actor China is, is my friend and colleague, the gentleman from California.

He is the chairman of the Workforce Protections Subcommittee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 8 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY).

Mr. KILEY. Thank you very much to my colleague from Florida. I appreciate you identifying this very important issue, the attempt of the Chinese Communist Party to gain influence at American universities in very con-

cerning ways because it so clearly highlights the mentality and strategy of the CCP, that they understand where the battle lines are being drawn in the 21st century.

The truly concerning thing is that increasingly, China is beating the United States at its own game, outpacing us and the rest of the world in key areas of technological advancements.

Through their actions, the CCP has shown an understanding that the 21st century will belong to the most innovative Nation, the one that is able to harness the whole power of new technologies.

China has known for decades that Nation was unquestionably the United States. But what we have seen over the last 2 decades is that China has dramatically ramped up its own investment in research and development, cutting into America's traditional dominance.

From 2000 to 2019, China's share of global R&D quadrupled to nearly a quarter, while our share slid from 37 percent to just 27 percent.

China has increased its R&D spending by nearly 16 times over the same period and plans to compound its R&D investments by an additional 7 percent annually.

By contrast, Federal R&D investment in the United States has never surpassed .8 percent of GDP over the last decade.

Of course, spending isn't the only metric that matters. The United States is also increasingly losing the talent battle, and the trend lines are getting worse.

China has consistently graduated more STEM Ph.D.s than the United States, and of course, many are getting educated right here in the United States.

Looking at the publication of peer-reviewed articles and journals, Chinese scholars surpassed the United States in the last decade.

In 2020, China published 38 percent more peer-reviewed articles than the United States and is on track to extend this gap even further over the next 5 years.

This all puts into perspective the pervasive attempts by the Chinese Communist Party to gain leverage over American universities.

Even though colleges and universities are required to report foreign gifts and contracts under section 117 of the Higher Education Act, over \$6.5 billion in unreported Federal money received by colleges has already been uncovered.

The Biden administration has done little to enforce this reporting requirement or open new investigations into how China is influencing our higher education system even though China wields the spending to co-opt innovative research. China has signaled that intellectual property is absolutely key to its long-term goals.

For years, the CCP sought to acquire IP through outright theft from U.S.

companies or by gaining influence in our universities.

But what we also have to acknowledge in this discussion is that their strategy has gotten much more sophisticated.

In addition to outright theft, China has signaled its plans to, in fact, elevate the status of the China National Intellectual Property Administration to make it a top-level independent agency.

While President Biden didn't mention IP at all in his most recent state of the Union address, Chinese President Xi Jinping speaks about IP frequently.

"We will increase investment in science and technology through diverse channels and strengthen legal protection of intellectual property rights . . .", he said in his speech at the opening of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China last year.

So clearly, the United States is at risk of forfeiting our technological edge at a time when it is more important than ever to protect our national interests.

To outcompete China, we need to out-innovate China, and that requires policymakers to act with urgency, not only to protect our companies and universities from Chinese influence but also to change the policy environment in ways that promote and protect American innovation.

Unfortunately, recent policy changes have done just the opposite. For example, FTC Chair Lina Khan has proposed sweeping new rules to unilaterally ban employers from using noncompete agreements, something California, by the way, has already done.

This will hamstring employers in the most competitive, trade-secret-rich sectors: artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and provision manufacturing, and render the United States less competitive than China.

Meanwhile, administrative processes at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office are creating headaches and worse for innovators seeking to defend their patents.

A quasi-judicial administrative body within the USPTO, the Patent Trial and Appeal Board or PTAB, has become the favorite forum for companies to challenge the validity of patents they are accused of infringing.

This works to the disadvantage of innovators and small businesses who must defend their IP in court and the PTAB simultaneously, reducing the incentive to invent in the first place.

But here is the good news. The United States has a proven track record of beating authoritarian governments in strategic technological competitions. We didn't beat the Soviet Union to the Moon by chance. It required a generational investment in cutting-edge research and development, which was enabled by American citizens solving the toughest technological problems of their day.

We have that same capacity in the challenges we now face in the 21st century, but that requires a change in how

we approach intellectual property and innovation in this country.

I think that the issue that is being highlighted today, the outright attempts by the CCP to go to our centers of research, of higher learning, our centers of intellectual life in this country shows that they understand the stakes and it is time that we here in Congress and throughout our government understand that as well.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my fellow subcommittee chair for bringing this issue to our attention.

□ 2100

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY).

Mr. Speaker, for those just tuning in, China is manipulating and trying to peddle influence among our higher universities, and Members are standing up and saying enough.

A few weeks ago, and to great amazement, we saw this Chinese spy balloon that cruised over our most sensitive sites in our country.

We were told we were blocking it from transmitting any data at the time, but now we have found that that spy balloon was transmitting pictures and information of our most sensitive military and nuclear sites in real time.

Who knows? I don't know if we will ever find out the true damage of that espionage break. Why on earth it wasn't shot down, I don't know. But what about the things we can't see? We can't see what China is doing to buy influence and to infiltrate our university systems.

Mr. Speaker, somebody that is going to tell us his angle on it is a gentleman who was part of a delegation that just last week went to Taiwan, went on an Asia tour to meet with leaders about just exactly what is going on over there.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, Mr. BEAN of Florida, for gathering us here this evening to raise awareness of the rising influence of foreign adversaries in our institutions of higher education, namely China and the Chinese Communist Party.

As he mentioned, I have just returned from a Foreign Affairs congressional delegation trip to the Indo-Pacific region where we met with the leaders of Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan to talk about the aggression of China not just from a military standpoint, but from a diplomatic and an economic standpoint.

Here tonight, we are talking about the aggression of China to take over America through its educational institutions.

Universities across the Nation are being exploited by the Chinese Communist Party and other foreign adversaries, with the CCP leading efforts to infiltrate college campuses to steal our

intellectual property, spread propaganda, and collect information to send back to China.

Our institutions of higher learning play a vital role in preparing our workforce for not only the next step in their career, but in evolving as contributing members of our society.

On college campuses across the United States, China has sponsored ambassadors to enroll in American institutions called "Confucius Institutes" to take advantage of domestic resources while influencing public perception that China is somehow compassionate and does not pose an economic or security threat to this Nation. They are doing it all within our borders, and it is simply false.

The Confucius Institutes aim to expand the Chinese footprint on universities around the world, influencing our students and threatening academic freedom.

In the United States alone, China has spent over \$150 million developing these programs by planting over 100 of the institutions. Today, there are 13 Confucius Institutes in the United States, with over 100 of the previously established institutes having closed or being in the process of closing, thankfully.

These so-called culture centers have given universities a direct line of communication with foreign adversaries, in addition to a direct source of foreign funding.

By law, universities receiving gifts from foreign countries with a value of over \$250,000 are required to report these donations to the Department of Education.

Several prestigious universities, however, across the United States, including universities such as the University of Pennsylvania, MIT, Harvard, Yale, and Georgetown received funding—lots of funding, millions and millions of dollars of funding—from foreign adversaries between 2014 and 2017. Yet, they failed to disclose any of these donations to the Department of Education.

I wonder why.

During the Trump administration, the Department of Education actually enforced the law and investigated these reports and donations ensuring that universities were compliant in this reporting.

As we all know, transparency is the key to accountability in this country. Yet here we see a lack of transparency on the part of these universities.

Unsurprisingly, the Biden administration, who has been weak on foreign policy and the promotion of American interests, has not yet investigated the nearly \$6.5 billion in unreported foreign money received by colleges and universities during the Biden administration.

I will repeat that again: \$6.5 billion.

And you ask, what is that money buying the Chinese Communist Party?

The administration's failure to enforce the law and ensure transparency and accountability of foreign money funneled into the United States insti-

tutions is dangerous, and it reveals a lack of desire to protect American national security and our values from bad actors.

The stake that the Chinese Government has in universities has given the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party a seat at the table of our educational institutions, a seat they should not have. They are strong-arming free speech and academic freedom. They are rewriting history, the history of the Chinese Communist Party, and they are doing it all through the dissolution of our free speech and our academic freedom, those pillars of our society.

As Members of Congress, it is of the utmost importance that we have accountability over the foreign dollars entering our college campuses and universities and ensure that dangerous ideals are not being promoted across the country through the Chinese Communist Party and other foreign adversaries that would use this information and these investments against our national security efforts.

American universities and colleges are esteemed for brilliant research and academia. We must not tolerate foreign governments stealing critical information in these premier research programs for the purpose of using it against the United States and weakening our national security.

I can tell you again from experience, these past couple of weeks have opened my eyes to the reality of the threat that is the Chinese Communist Party. Again, it is not just our diplomatic status, it is not just our economic warfare that we are engaging in, it is not just what we are seeing from a military presence that they have around the island of Taiwan. Know that it is now indeed in our educational institutions.

We must push back on every front. It is a multi-front fight that we cannot lose, or we will lose this Nation.

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's higher education system is being purchased and manipulated by the Chinese Communist Party. You have heard about it and we keep hearing about it. China can't keep up with our Nation's unrelenting free market system that is constantly innovating, so the only way they see to catch up with us is to cheat and steal our intellectual property and infiltrate our university systems and steal our discoveries. It has got to end. Let's hear more about what China is doing to manipulate our university systems.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS), the distinguished chair of the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my esteemed colleague for yielding.

Here are some facts you need to know about the abysmal record of the Chinese Communist Party on human rights and against our American way of freedom.

China has carried out the torture, forced sterilization, and sexual abuse of over 1 million Uyghurs.

China has ranked 175 out of 180 countries that lack free press, and it is notorious for jailing journalists with dissenting voices. Chinese officials have detained, tortured, and executed protestors with impunity.

Since 2013, U.S. colleges and universities have received more than \$1 billion in gifts and contracts from the Chinese Communist Party and its affiliated sources.

As a result, professors, student groups, and guest speakers critical of the Communist Party's human rights abuses have been silenced, threatened, and de-platformed. The China regime is spreading anti-democratic, anti-American propaganda by funneling large sums of money into education.

Sadly, we have Americans who have and continue to think that turning their back on our Nation for self-aggrandizement is okay. This profit over patriotism culture that has infested our country and our institutions of higher learning is okay.

This must end.

It is a national security issue when the Communist Party simply buys onto platforms that manipulate our children, their education, the vision and ability to appreciate this great country.

We have for years allowed the Chinese Communist Party to find a home in our high schools and colleges with their Confucius Institutes.

□ 2110

Granted the credibility of our institutions and the pipeline of our children, they indoctrinate them into their form of government, one that can only survive through tyranny, is good, and that our form of government, a representative republic that thrives on freedom, is bad.

It is on these college campuses where the stealing of our intellectual property, technology, and national security secrets is not looked upon as betrayal, which it is at the highest, but instead deemed a necessity to build bigger, more spacious buildings and to hire more bureaucrats committed to teach our impressible and trusting children that Marxism is okay after all.

The manipulation of our children on American soil, paid for by American taxpayers, is unacceptable. Again, the profit over patriotism culture that has infested too many of our higher education institutions must stop now.

As we watched a slow-moving Communist spy balloon that took a week to lumber over our Nation, doing figure eights over our military bases; then, as we learned this morning of the secret Communist Chinese police station spying on, intimidating, and disrupting free speech of Chinese Americans in New York City, we have to wonder what is really being taught or not taught in our educational system.

It is indeed broken if our past generations taught by these institutions can

see the blatant attacks on our American culture and think there is nothing wrong; that the presence of misery, chaos, hopelessness, and divisiveness throughout our Nation is normal and acceptable.

From establishing a bipartisan select committee on China, to reducing reliance on foreign adversaries for our American energy needs, the House GOP has delivered on its promise outlined in our Commitment to America; that is, to counter the malignant influence of China in corporate boardrooms, social media, and on college and high school campuses. We have done so in our first 100 days.

As the chairman of the Higher Education and Workforce Development Subcommittee, I am proud to lead the charge in ensuring the freedom of speech of every American on every college campus and to preserve the integrity of America's higher education.

I am committed to championing the freedom and liberty we enjoy as Americans. As was the statement made by a Japanese Admiral after the attack on Pearl Harbor and the deaths of close to 3,000 Americans, "I fear we've awakened a sleeping giant."

To the Biden administration that has for 2 years been asleep as our Nation has faced threats from within and without, the American people will not stand by and let our children be indoctrinated out of our belief in freedom, our American way, and the history of proud Americans who sacrificed their blood, sweat, and tears to grant us this great gift.

You have awakened a sleeping giant, a freedom-loving we the people.

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's higher education system is being purchased and manipulated by the Chinese Communist Party. You have heard from various Members giving you details of how it is done, but we need somebody who can give us the big picture.

We need somebody who can give us big ideas. We need somebody who can give us big solutions. There is only one guy that can do that, Mr. Speaker.

I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

There is a great Chinese scholar, Professor Sheridan wrote a book called "China in Disintegration," and he analyzed the fall of China's government in the early 1900s before you moved to kind of an anarchical situation where you saw the rise of Chiang Kai-shek and the Kuomintang versus, ultimately, post-World War II Mao Zedong and the Chinese Communist long march as they marched around and eventually the U.S. wavered and China fell to communism under Chairman Mao.

What was the premise of "China in Disintegration"? It was an analysis of why great powers, great nations, great empires fail. They fail because of a loss of geographical integrity. They fail for—that is the first thing.

The second thing is they fail because their currency loses value and trust. Once that goes, and the culture begins to change, they are either overextended, or they allow individuals with malevolent intentions to come into their country and influence the population.

So what do we have? We have a wide-open border, so we have lost our geographical integrity. We have \$31.4 trillion in national debt and rising inflation.

We have nations like India contemplating moving to the Chinese yuan for their currency of exchange instead of the dollar. They have settled on the rupee.

We have lost economic integrity as well.

What has happened? Well, China views, as they always have, themselves as the center of the universe. They have viewed Westerners as barbarians. Mao and his ambitions were superseded ultimately by Deng Zhao Ping, who said we are going to put a unique spin and have a hybridized economy, and it is going to have some elements of capitalism, but it is going to be Communist overall.

Now, why did he do that? Because they were failing as a Communist state.

We built the Chinese middle class. We built the Chinese deep water navy. We gave China superior telemetry.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have basically given China our technology. What we haven't given them, they have stolen.

Now you have reached a point where you have a CEO of a company like Nike, who says, we are not an American company anymore, we are a Chinese company.

How have they done that? There are literally tens of thousands of Chinese national students in our universities. When we talk about the billions of dollars that have come in in donations, a more insidious thing is the out-of-State tuition that funds these State universities who rely on out-of-State tuition, so they come in and they pay that tuition.

It is not a normalized situation. To come over here as a student, you have to be a member of the CCP.

There are 330 million people in the CCP, as many as we have living in the United States today.

They send their students over here and they exit. They leave and they go home with what? Our technology and experience that we have given them to defeat ourselves.

We can continue to put our head in the sand and hope that it isn't true. There are those who believe it is xenophobic to talk about this.

I appreciate the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BEAN) being here tonight and leading this Special Order because Americans need to know the peril that we are in because China doesn't view us as an economic opponent or competitor. They view us as an adversary, a geopolitical adversary.

For them, they want to be the world's dominant hegemon. That isn't me saying it. You can look at any modern writing within the top leadership of the CCP. It is pretty clear.

I would suggest that we need to take back our educational institutions. Couple that with the integration, we need to decouple our economic integration and dependence upon China. They know we are dependent. They know they can exploit that. We saw how they exploited it just recently in the COVID-19 epidemic.

Let's be wise. We are going to have to take action.

□ 2120

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's higher education system is being purchased and manipulated by the Chinese Communist Party. Tonight, you have heard from various members of a fantastic committee and other Members, led by Dr. VIRGINIA FOXX, shining the light on just how bad it is, just how blind an eye that we have turned to it for the last 20 years.

We now realize through donations and purchases and influence in sending their kids here to school, as well as something called the Confucius Institutes, that it is all for the propaganda and a way for China to infiltrate and manipulate our higher education system.

Mr. Speaker, where do we go from here? We have work to do, including alerting America, which is what we are doing tonight, but also alerting our higher ed, our leadership in our universities and colleges, to let them be wary of any foreign donation coming into their institutions, particularly anything coming from China should be a red flag.

The Department of Education should immediately enforce existing laws. Should we make a new law? How about enforcing the laws that are already on the books requiring these institutions, some of the biggest names in higher ed, to report foreign gifts and grants?

The Biden administration should ban Confucius Institutes and all collaborations between U.S. institutions and Chinese entities affiliated with the Chinese Ministry of State Security immediately.

Congress should also consider withholding State and Federal funds from colleges and universities that resist efforts to eliminate CCP influence operations.

Lastly, the State Department—Mr. BIGGS said it so well. The State Department must review applications from adversarial countries, including the CCP, the background and research plan of every applicant for a student visa. We need to say no. We need to say no to the CCP coming in, getting our information, and then going back home.

We have lots to do, but it starts with alerting the American people. We have done that tonight. The rest of the work is up to this Congress. It is up to the administration to enforce our laws and

to hold these universities and China accountable for exactly what they are doing, which is manipulating and using undue influence in our higher education system. It stops now and going forward.

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

THE MYSTERIOUS DEBT CEILING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, we are going to talk tonight about this debt ceiling, this mysterious debt ceiling that we hear so much about. I am joined by two of my colleagues who have strong ideas about this, as well.

I want to just relate something to America, so you can hear this.

We had a meeting several weeks back talking about the debt ceiling. I don't think anybody had ever asked this question, and I started asking it at every meeting. I said: How much does the Biden administration want to raise the debt?

We stand at \$34.1 trillion now. We spend \$6.1 trillion a year, but we raise \$4.9 trillion. Every month, we fall short by about \$100 billion.

I said: How much do they want?

Well, when I first started asking the question, everybody says: I don't know. We don't know.

Now, it is \$4 trillion. That is what I am hearing, \$4 trillion. Tonight, we heard \$3.5 trillion. In any event, it is \$3.5 trillion to \$4 trillion.

I asked the next question. I said: Look, I really want to know what happens if we don't lift the debt ceiling. I don't know. These guys might have been there.

The fellow was nonplussed. This former deputy at the OMB, the Office of Management and Budget, an economist, stood there for probably 2 minutes. Nobody had ever asked him that question before. He says: Nothing. Nothing will happen.

I said: How can that be? I am hearing that it is collapse city. Tell me, how can that be?

He said: All the bills go to OMB. They get forwarded on to the Fed, and they all get paid as they come due. They just keep paying them.

I am here to tell you that the debt ceiling is mysterious. It is a black box. It is the Wizard of Oz behind the curtain. And it is time for us to face the facts.

If they are going to try to leverage us, then we have to do something to

make this more responsible, this spending more responsible, and get our budget back together.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE).

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative BIGGS, my good friend from Arizona, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, President Joe Biden wants to raise the national debt by more than \$3 trillion over the next 2 years. Washington is bleeding American taxpayers dry with their addiction to spending, with no end in sight to this endless financial disaster.

The U.S. already has roughly \$31.6 trillion in debt, with no concrete plan to pay it back. Most folks cannot even fathom how much money that truly is.

Congress can avoid raising the debt ceiling almost indefinitely by returning spending to pre-COVID levels and practicing fiscal responsibility.

On March 28, my colleagues and I proposed targeted cuts to nondefense discretionary spending that would reduce the deficit by \$100 billion over the next year and reduce the total spending by more than \$1 trillion over the next decade.

I am proud to cosponsor over 500 bills that were introduced by Representative ANDY BIGGS to achieve this. These are concrete, commonsense proposals to eliminate woke and wasteful spending from our Federal Government.

We must rescind unspent COVID-19 money and stop funding the radical left's wish list, like the IRS expansion, wasteful green energy projects, and student loan bailout.

Congress can still pass a strong budget that protects Social Security and Medicare benefits without having to raise the debt ceiling at all. Yet, Democrat leaders have yet to respond to this proposal, and the President has made it clear that he is unwilling to work with any Republicans.

Biden's proposed budget of \$6.8 trillion represents a nearly 32 percent increase in spending since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, my fellow colleagues, the pandemic is over. The Federal Government was big in 2019. The American people were taxed enough already in 2019.

When the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act passed, it lowered Federal taxes for all Americans and led to the lowest unemployment rate in 50 years. It has generated nearly \$1 trillion a year more in Federal revenue.

It is inappropriate for the President to ask the American people for even more of their hard-earned money when there is still over \$100 billion in unspent COVID relief money lying on the table.

There are too many wasteful organizations and woke government programs that do almost nothing for the American people while costing them billions each year in increased spending and increased regulatory burdens.

In fact, the Congressional Budget Office produces a long list of Federal departments, programs, and agencies