

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

that are no longer authorized, but many of these programs still receive funding.

This is just one example of the countless ways that Congress could address our spending addiction.

Mr. Speaker, our deficit is getting worse every year. Congress has failed in its duty to provide sound stewardship of the American finances, and we are all facing the consequences of this failure.

□ 2130

Worse yet, the consequences of our decisions will fall on the future generations of Americans.

We all need to come together and find a solution to this problem and shrink Washington and grow America.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Montana. He mentioned unauthorized programs that we are continuing to fund. There are more than 1,200 Federal programs that are unauthorized right now. \$500 billion. That is what we spend every year for those 1,200 unauthorized programs. Congress hasn't authorized them. They have expired. We haven't reauthorized, but we are still spending \$500 billion a year. People wonder what is crazy about D.C. Well, let me give you one more datapoint.

That same meeting that we were talking about, the gentleman was getting ready to leave, this economist, and then we had a former head of OMB there with us. I asked them: Can you tell me how many agencies there are in the Federal Government?

The answer was "no."

I said: What?

He said: Nobody knows. That is hard to believe. I couldn't believe it. I did some more digging. Nobody can tell me. Nobody can tell me how many Federal agencies there are. We can tell you how much we are spending. We are spending over \$100 billion every month more than we bring in.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BIGGS, my friend from Arizona for his leadership on this all-important issue. I also thank my friend from Montana and his remarks just a moment ago.

Mr. Speaker, the Founders gave, in the Constitution, the authority for spending to the House of Representatives. It is the House of Representatives that most directly reflects where the American people are, what the American people's wishes are on a Federal level. It is not the White House. It is not the Senate. It certainly is not the Supreme Court. It is the people's House, the House of Representatives, which proportionally represents everyone across the country equally with some 800,000 citizens per representative.

It is the House of Representatives that has the responsibility to ensure our ability to pay our Nation's debts and to protect the credit or the bor-

rowing capacity for when it is necessary of the United States Federal Government.

We talk often about what are the greatest threats to the country. There are numerous existential threats to our country right now, I would submit like never before in the history of the United States, brought on by the policies of this administration, Mr. Speaker, and those who had the majority of both Houses for the previous 2 years.

Whether it is the open border where some 6 to 7 million illegals have swarmed into our country, facilitated and helped by this administration's policies. Whether it is our broken education system, our indoctrination on our college campuses, our K-12. Whether it is the weakening of our military, our failures on the national stage. Whether it is the threat of China. Whether it is our national debt and our spending.

As we address tonight and discuss the national debt and the spending and the debt ceiling issue, the spending piece of this, the responsibility of the House is not just addressing that issue, but how we manage the United States' spending. The Federal spending addresses all of the other issues: to utilize the power of the purse, to stop funding the harmful policies. Not just the wasteful reckless spending, but the literal harmful spending that is making our country less safe, less secure, less prosperous, and less free.

As we talked specifically about the national debt, it has been said already tonight, over \$31 trillion. I happen to serve on the Budget Committee. A couple of weeks ago we brought before our committee, once again, OMB Director Shalanda Young, the Biden administration's budget director—funny term to apply budget director to anybody in this administration, Mr. Speaker—as we were having a chance to question the budget director for the Biden administration, I asked Ms. Young: What is the national debt? She could not tell me. She said it was somewhere around maybe \$24 trillion. I corrected her that it was over \$31 trillion.

I asked her: How much does that equate to per American citizen? She did not know. I helped her with the fact that it is nearly \$100,000 for 330 million American citizens. \$100,000 per citizen. That means about \$300,000 per taxpayer or per family.

Mr. Speaker, I then asked her what is the percentage of debt to GDP? She did not know, Mr. Speaker. She thought it might be 90-some percent. I helped her with the information that it is about 125 percent debt to GDP ratio.

I asked: When was the last time it was that high in the history of our country? She did not know. I helped her to realize that it was World War II.

To follow up on what my friend from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) was saying a moment ago. We also had—another committee that I serve on, another caucus I am a part of, the Republican Study Committee—Federal Reserve Chairman

Powell—he spoke to us about interest rates and about trying to bring down inflation. He shared his remarks. Once again, he did not deal with the issue of the national debt. He didn't even bring it up. He didn't bring up the Federal spending.

I said to him: What is the number one cause of inflation?

Historically, when we raise interest rates, we are trying to what?

Cool a hot economy to ward off a recession. Instead, we have caused the inflation with the spending, and now we are making it worse on the American people by raising the interest rates in a futile attempt to reduce inflation in a weak economy and making things worse for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the remarks a few moments ago from my colleague from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS), I led a letter to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen asking her about what Mr. BIGGS was speaking about a moment ago.

What is her plan to ensure we do not have a default when we reach the debt ceiling limit?

How will she prioritize spending to ensure we don't result in a default when we reach that debt limit?

We have not gotten satisfactory answers to that.

Mr. BIGGS is exactly right, Mr. Speaker. When we exhaust these so-called extraordinary measures, which part of my letter also asked: When will we exhaust those? How is that determined? We have not gotten satisfactory answers to that.

But the fact is, when we reach the debt limit and we can no longer utilize gimmicks and clever tactics to try to extend that, we will simply have to prioritize our spending. We have got a record \$5 trillion coming into the Treasury. Never happened before in the history of the country. Frankly, because of the Trump Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which has done what always happens in history when you cut taxes, you get more income and more revenue.

Don't let the Democrats or the administration lie to us, Mr. Speaker, and tell us we have a deficit because of the tax cuts. That is simply not true, with \$5 trillion in revenue coming into the Treasury for the first time in history.

However, as Mr. BIGGS said, we are spending over \$6 trillion if we reach the debt limit, and we can no longer delay through these extraordinary measures. We will simply have to prioritize spending. That is why they don't want to do it. That is why they want your \$3 or \$4 trillion, as Mr. ROSENDALE and Mr. BIGGS stated a few moments ago, because they don't want to prioritize spending.

There is more than enough revenue coming in to fund Social Security and Medicare. There is more than enough revenue to pay the interest on the debt. We would simply be forced to cut discretionary spending.

We have a plan that we in the House Freedom Caucus have put forward to cut somewhere in the range of \$1.5 trillion immediately out of the gate. Mr. BIGGS led the way on this with 500 bills with 500 specific target cuts toward those 1,200 unauthorized, but still appropriated in the previous Congress' programs. That would save us another \$500 billion so that we would never have to raise the debt ceiling again if we have the immediate \$1.5 trillion in cuts now, and we use the appropriations process this fall to cut even further.

□ 2140

Mr. BIGGS. I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

May I inquire of the Speaker how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arizona has 14 minutes remaining.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, HFC put in a proposal just recently. I think this is really important. The idea is to shrink Washington and grow the country again. We proposed it in early March.

The first thing is we cancel the student loan forgiveness plan which totals \$609 billion. We cut the wasteful, woke, weaponized spending programs and get the Nation back on track. We eliminate Green New Deal tax credits and subsidies.

I recently scored it at 350. I am told now it is \$400 billion. Between those two items alone, Mr. Speaker, we are moving towards \$1 trillion.

We cut the IRS expansion. We already passed that out of the House. That is \$80 billion. We take into account the 500 targeted reductions that we have made. Maybe we don't do all of them. Maybe we just do half of them. Maybe we do 50, 70, \$85 billion worth.

Then I will tell you something else, Mr. Speaker, that you have to do. You take back the COVID money that we sent out. There is about \$80 billion of that that hasn't been spent. Bring that back.

All of that is in the first year, and I haven't even talked about reductions. That is the rescissions.

Then we start reducing, and we can make it targeted. We can do the discretionary.

Guess what?

We start getting to a place where we are not in the hole \$100 billion per month.

How about doing that for a year?

How about doing that for a year?

I am told that a lot of these folks don't really want to do that, and I find that hard to believe.

So in fiscal year 2024 alone, if we add to what I just outlined, what we proposed, what we cosponsored, those 500 bills, we just want you to look at them for mercy's sake.

If we took all of them, then we would be a little over \$100 billion in savings in fiscal year 2024 alone.

There are ways out of this, aren't there?

But it is going to take some courage and some discipline. Quite frankly, part of the reason that I wanted to do this tonight is I am hearing all the time that we don't know where you guys are.

I say: How can you not know where I am?

I have been so explicit, and I am transparent. Everybody knows where Biggs is because Biggs doesn't keep his mouth shut.

This is where we need to be. We need to be telling the truth. The American people need to understand clearly what is about to happen to them. What is about to happen to them is they are going to raise that debt ceiling. Somebody is going to raise the debt ceiling.

The idea that they are talking about now—just so people know—is anywhere from 1.5 to \$4 trillion. That is what they are talking about.

They are going to trade it for 10 years with maybe \$3.5 to \$4 trillion in reductions in savings, net savings—not even net savings, I'm sorry to say that, gross savings.

So over here on that ledger, Mr. Speaker, you have to get \$4 trillion over 10 years. But if you raise the debt ceiling by \$1.5 to \$4 trillion over that year, 18 to 24 months, now extend that out for the rest of that 10-year cycle.

We are not raising the national debt by \$24 trillion. We are raising it by \$19 trillion.

So we are still hitting 50-plus trillion dollars because we didn't have the courage to make the reductions and the hard choices this year.

My favorite thing to hear around here is that we are going to have a 10-year plan to balance the budget. Mr. Speaker, I could go back and show you from 15 years ago. They still relive that first year over and over again because it is like *deja vu*.

So this year they are telling everybody: We are going to do a 10-year plan. It is going to be great. We think we can get balanced in 10 years. We are going to have to make some tough decisions.

But next year they will come back and say: We have got a 10-year plan. You have to make some tough decisions.

Two years they will come back and say: We have a 10-year plan.

Do it now. Do it now.

People tell me: You are conflating the budget with the debt ceiling.

Do you know why, Mr. Speaker?

Because I can tell you that if we don't do it now in the debt ceiling, when that budget comes around, you are going to have an omnibus bill. You are going to have an omnibus bill. That is what is going to happen. That may not work, so you get a CR.

Part of the package that HFC put out is that if you end up with a mandatory CR, then you start reducing funding on that. So you never have a government shutdown, which is in some ways too bad, quite frankly.

Then we have also proposed adding the REINS Act. The REINS Act says

that before a bureaucratic agency can impose rules on anything that will impact more than—it is \$100 million—I think that is way too high. It should be like \$10 million, but they are telling me it is \$100 million—then we have to bring it back to Congress.

I think that is a great place to start.

Do you know why, Mr. Speaker?

We have delegated our authority to bureaucracy. So we have the bureaucracy out there, and they are making rules. That is the same thing as legislating. They are enforcing the rules. That is the executive branch power. They are adjudicating whether you have committed a violation of the rules and fining you.

In some cases most of the 40,000 crimes that are Federal in nature were created under the rulemaking process.

Mr. Speaker, I am just telling you: Our government is out of control, and our spending is out of control.

Guess what, Mr. Speaker?

If we went back to 2019 levels—which is what we have proposed—if you go back to 2019 levels which nobody would say: Oh, we had too little government in 2019. If you go back to those levels, Mr. Speaker, guess what?

You can pay it because we were spending about \$5 trillion, and now we are bringing in about \$5 trillion. So let's go back to the 2019 levels, for Pete's sake, and then let's do the rescissions to boot, and let's stop the seemingly endless cycle of a national debt increase.

If we do that, then we stop the imminent bankruptcy of this country, we stop the devaluation of our currency around the world, and we stop the inflationary pressures. Then once we do things like reduce some more taxes, reduce some more regulations, and get some better energy production, then we will, again, be the world's economic leader.

I am just here to tell you, Mr. Speaker, we have got a plan. We presented our plan. I don't think anybody should ever say that Mr. GOOD, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. BIGGS, and the half dozen others or so, that they don't know where we are. I have never voted to raise the debt ceiling. I don't think that is what I was sent here to do, and I am finding it awfully hard to believe that there is any justification for raising it \$2 to \$4 trillion.

I encourage everyone to understand that we can put an end to this cycle of self-immolation.

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

JOINT RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported that on April 5, 2023, the following joint resolutions were presented to the President of the United States for approval:

H.J. Res. 7. Relating to a national emergency declared by the President on March 13, 2020