

In closing, there are many, many organizations across the country who have expressed their opposition to the nomination and confirmation of Julie Su for Labor Secretary. I will just list some of them: there is the Air Conditioning Contractors of America; American Hotel and Lodging Association; American Trucking Associations; Americans for Tax Reform; Associated Builders and Contractors; Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers; Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise; Coalition of Franchisee Associations; Consumer Technology Association; Franchise Business Services; Flex Association; Heating, Air-Conditioning & Refrigeration Distributors International; Independent Bakers Association; Independent Electrical Contractors; Institute for the American Worker; International Franchise Association; International Warehouse Logistics Association; Association of Independent Professionals and the Self-Employed; Leading Builders of America; National Armored Car Association; National Association of Home Builders; National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors; National Council of Chain Restaurants; National Federation of Independent Business; National Franchisee Association; International Franchise Association; National Grocers Association; National Ready Mixed Concrete Association; National Restaurant Association; Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association; DoorDash; Lyft; Competitive Enterprise Institute; TechNet; Fight for Freelancers; Freelancers Against AB5; California Business and Industrial Alliance; Workplace Policy Institute; Job Creators Network; Institute for the American Worker.

□ 1200

You have also had State-level associations weigh in in opposition: for example, in Arizona, the Builders Alliance; Construction Trades; Franchise Action Network; Lodging and Tourism Association; Restaurant Association; Small Business Association; Transportation Builders Association; Trucking Association; and the Independent Electrical Contractors.

In West Virginia, you have the Associated Builders and Contractors; Independent Electrical Contractors Chesapeake; the Franchise Action Network; the Hospitality and Travel Association; the Manufacturers Association; Oil Marketers and Grocers Association; Retailers Association; and Trucking Association.

I encourage Members of the United States Senate to join this broad coalition of small businesses and workers across the country who know that we deserve and need better than the Secretary of Labor.

I urge Members of the United States Senate to reject this nomination, and I urge the President to appoint a Secretary of Labor who will be on the side of American workers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, that is what you call making it just in time. I thank the gentleman from California for yielding just a little time in this Special Order hour in order for me to recognize a very special group of students down in Clinton, South Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Clinton High School and Clinton Middle School Olympiad teams for both bringing home the State championship in Charleston this past month and qualifying for the National Science Olympiad tournament in Kansas this May.

Now, the Science Olympiad was founded in 1984 as the premier team STEM competition in the Nation and provides standards-based challenges to 6,000 teams at 425 tournaments in all 50 States.

Winning the State Olympiad is a tremendous accomplishment alone, but the fact that Clinton has a history of excellence in the Science Olympiad is even more impressive.

Listen to this: Clinton has been involved in the Olympiad since 1986, and I am proud of Clinton's continued success in this competition.

The Clinton Middle School, formerly Bell Street Middle School where my sons went to middle school, has won the State Olympiad title 19 times in the last 21 years—19 times in the last 21 years—and Clinton High School has won the State title 12 of the last 15 years.

I congratulate the coaches and members of the Clinton State Championship Science Olympiad team for their win this year and applaud them for their wins over the years.

This year's middle school team included Jackie Alcudia, Liam Bell, Madison Boyter, Lauren Ficklin, Sam Hunt, Salaam Jenkins, Jacob King, Matthew King, Shayne Kiselak, Hank Lanford, Landen Lowman, Kelly Nelson, Sidney Nelson, Arohi Patel, Shrey Patel, Ada Tiller, Brian Phillips, Aubrie Watts, Ben Wiggins, and Marlee Williamson.

This year's high school team included Kaelyn Bell, Jules Darden, Keegan Fortman, Julieta Garcia, Becca King, Anna Litzenberger, Addison Lowman, Shane Nelson, Junia Nolan, Wes Ray, Helen Sarah, Bailey Suarez, and Rachel Vondergeest.

Now, of course, we have to remember the coaches because a team is only as good as the leadership, so you have head coach Terri O'Shields and David O'Shields, who is our superintendent in that district. They are both dear friends of mine.

Kevin Cox, Michael Mack, JASON SMITH, Ami Vaughn, Allison Lanford, Stan Walsh, Jimbo Langston, Scott Shiflet, Dianne Summer, Sharon Lone, David Bell, Katie Scarlett, Maggie O'Shields, and Asheton Wilbanks.

Clinton High School defeated 14 other high school teams to win, and they brought home the gold medal in astronomy, bridge building, chemistry lab, dynamic planet, environmental

chemistry, forestry, remote sensing, and the WiFi lab. What great categories for STEM education.

Clinton Middle School defeated all of its competition in each event.

Congratulations to the students of Clinton High School and Clinton Middle School for another Science Olympiad State championship.

Their success is a testament not only to their talent and the hard work that they put in and the dedication, but it is a testament to the leaders and the teachers and the coaches that really helped them navigate this success.

South Carolina is rooting for them as they compete in the National Science Olympiad tournament next month. They have bright futures, and they are the innovators of tomorrow. The sky is the limit.

I thank them for what they do. I congratulate them on their win, and God bless them.

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

ISSUES OF THE DAY

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I will address an issue that will not affect us until the second half of this century, an issue that I first addressed 23 years ago; the first year of this century.

It is the issue of engineered intelligence. The race that the engineers don't know that they are in. A race between the bioengineers and DNA and the computer engineers and artificial intelligence, AI, to create a new level of intelligence on this planet; in effect, to develop our successor species.

AI will have dramatic effects in the short-term. It will have benefits because it is a powerful tool. It will be used by evil men and women because it is a powerful tool.

They will use it to accomplish their goals, and sometimes they will make mistakes. They will invade privacy. They will deny loans to people who should get them for wrongful reasons.

These are issues that we have faced in the last hundred years wherein this or that technology has invaded our privacy or discriminated against people in this or that financial transaction.

My focus is the second half of this century when we will face issues far beyond that.

As to artificial intelligence, Elon Musk and Steve Wozniak and others have asked for a 6-month delay, but we will not see a 6-month delay in our research.

Frankly, a 6-month delay wouldn't accomplish much because the issues surrounding AI are intractable, and we have squandered at least 23 years in failing to deal with them. Another 6 months will do us little good.

I commend the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and I don't commend KEVIN MCCARTHY all that often,

for bringing the entire House together 2 days ago to focus on the artificial intelligence issue and to hear from Professors Torralba and Madry of MIT.

The professors showed us that AI clearly has met the Turing Test. The Turing Test was set forward by Professor Turing many, many decades ago.

Professor Turing was the subject of the Imitation Game, one of the most brilliant computer professors we have ever had, that the western world has ever had.

That test was that you would have a text chat with a computer and not be able to tell whether you were talking to a human or to a computer.

At that point, computers would have reached human levels of intelligence. Well, we have clearly gotten to that level. We call it ChatGPT. Chat is right in the name.

Today's computers cheat on the Turing Test. It is no longer a valid test because today's computers have something Professor Turing from the 1940s and 1950s could not have imagined, and that is the internet.

They are able to mimic a human response just by looking at every other human response to a similar statement or question by looking at the entire internet.

As the MIT professors pointed out, it is kind of like a parrot; able to say something that under some circumstances might be the right response without understanding the words.

AI will not, therefore, probably be intelligent the way I would view it for decades. We will need a new test, not the Turing Test.

For now, AI is a tool. It is a great tool, as was writing and fire and jet travel and the internet. We will be able to deal with that tool.

The second half of this century will see an AI that is intelligent, that has—or might very well see this. It may very well be self-aware, aware that it exists and that it exists on a planet that can be affected things outside of its own existence.

AI may have volition; will. It may have ambition, the desire to survive, perhaps the desire to propagate, and in any case, the desire to affect the world so as to achieve its own survival. AI is a powerful tool.

China is not going to stop developing it for the next 6 months. American corporations see big profits. They are not going to stop developing it.

The private sector isn't going to spend much of its money making sure that AI is trustworthy. They are going to try to make sure that AI is profitable.

We need to be concerned about an AI that is self-aware and ambitious. Such an AI will have risks that are beyond the apocalypse to the human race.

Therefore, I propose that 10 percent of all the money we spend on AI research be used to prevent and monitor for self-awareness, volition, and ambition. Perhaps also to monitor for AI's

awareness that we are monitoring it for those purposes.

If someone, some futurist is describing what the second half of this century will look like, and they paint a picture that seems to be a science fiction movie, they might be wrong. They might be right.

If a futurist paints a picture of the future that doesn't look like a science fiction movie, you know they are wrong. Our children will be living in a science fiction movie; we just don't know which one.

Let us not build Skynet. If you remember the Terminator movies, you will remember that Skynet destroyed most of the human race just seconds before it thought correctly that it was going to be unplugged.

Terminator was a great movie to watch, a terrible movie to live in, and I don't know if we can count on Sarah Connor.

There are two advantages that the human race has in preventing self-aware and ambitious AI. First, we are designing the AI, and we may understand what we are doing while we are doing it. We might.

Second, the machines are inherently, from our experience, not volitional, not ambitious. Go to the largest computer and say to the computer, I am planning to unplug you, break you up, and sell you for parts, and that computer will help you calculate how much money you can get for the parts.

Now let's look at genetic engineering, bioengineering. While the largest computer seems fine with being unplugged, the smallest insect does not.

Try stepping on a cockroach and see whether it is okay with being unplugged. The DNA, which didn't care whether it survived, didn't care to propagate, didn't, and isn't with us.

We may see genetic engineers, DNA engineers, start with human DNA and create a 1,000-pound mammal with a 100-pound brain that is going to beat your kids on the law school admissions test. That mammal, like every other mammal, will probably have a survival instinct.

Today's big headlines are about ChatGPT and artificial intelligence. Last year's big headline was about CRISPR, a new technology for the DNA engineers to use, and those headlines may turn out to be more important.

It will be hard to limit genetic engineering because initially, it will help deal with human tragedy. We will use genetic engineering to help cure disease.

Genetic engineering will help the impaired human, will help to decrease disease or syndromes. First, we will see us create the non-impaired human, the repaired human, and only then will we go forward to the transhuman.

□ 1215

There is a second issue, kind of something off to the side, and that is some world leaders—and I am looking at you

Kim Jong-un—will seek to create submissive or subservient humans genetically.

Third, also off to the side, there are animal rights advocates who have argued that animals have reached a point where they deserve constitutional rights. Well, when genetic engineers create a pet dog or a working dog with near human intelligence, those animal rights advocates may have a point.

Let us return to the great race to create transhuman intelligence that is self-aware and ambitious. We need rules regarding genetic engineering that make it plain that while it is okay to seek to prevent intellectual disability, it is not okay to use genetic engineering to create intelligence beyond that of the average human.

Of course, we need to prevent the use of genetic engineering to create animals of greater intelligence than that animal species or humans of impaired will or impaired intelligence.

We do know one thing: Intelligence is the most powerful thing on the planet. It is intelligence that gave us fire. It is intelligence that gave us nuclear fusion. It is intelligence that gives us an unending supply of cat videos on our phone.

The last time a new level of intelligence arose on this planet it was when our ancestors said hello to a Neanderthal. It didn't work out for the Neanderthal.

There is a race between the computer engineers and AI and the bioengineers and DNA to develop the next level of intelligence, perhaps to create our successor species.

Will the next dominant species on this planet be carbon-based or silicon-based, the product of genetic engineering or the product of computer engineering?

Artificial intelligence is in the lead, creating an incredible level of intelligence that is useful to us now and is progressing at the speed of computing. Genetic engineering starts with the raw material that has a survival instinct and ambition.

I don't know who will win this race. I am old-fashioned. I am rooting for team human, which may not even be in the race.

RECENT EVENTS IN PAKISTAN

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address recent events in Pakistan. In evaluating those events, some would say that America should root for whichever political leader styles themselves as more pro-American and has been easier for us to deal with on this or that bilateral issue.

I would say—and I think the State Department agrees—that what comes first is our dedication to democracy and the rule of law. Imran Khan was difficult for us to deal with; Prime Minister Sharif is somewhat easier. The question is democracy and the rule of law.

The Supreme Court of Pakistan has ruled that there should be provincial elections in Punjab and later on in another province. That is the rule of law.

I believe that supreme court has ruled that its initial ruling is final and unappealable, and the supreme court has ordered that the funds be released as are necessary to hold those provincial elections.

America stands not with this policy or that policy or a government that will agree with us on this issue or that issue. America stands for democracy and the rule of law. America also stands for human rights and the right of free speech and the right to express one's opinions. I, of course, have been concerned about some of the terrible disappearances, some of the abuses of human rights, some of the substantial evidence of torture.

We need human rights and democracy in Pakistan. We need the rule of law. America stands not with its short-term bilateral concerns but with our dedication to democracy and human rights.

Most important of all, Pakistan has national elections set forth in October, and nothing is more important for Pakistan than that those elections be timely, legitimate, fair, and that whoever wins the elections be allowed to govern.

WAR IN ETHIOPIA, TIGRAY

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I will turn my attention to an issue that too many in Washington didn't pay attention to, as over 600,000 people died, and now some are not paying attention to the theory that the problem is over. I speak of northern Ethiopia, Tigray.

While the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement was signed in November, the Tigrayan people continue to face ethnic violence and discrimination. Earlier this month, the AP reported that Amhara forces have renewed their campaign of ethnic cleansing against Tigrayan civilians and have uprooted roughly 47,000 Tigrayans from areas in southern Tigray just since March. The Amhara forces are carrying out this campaign of ethnic cleansing through forced evictions, harassment, and murder.

Throughout all history, ethnic cleansing and genocide have gone together. This is not a standalone event, but rather, follows a horrific campaign of ethnic cleansing of Tigrayan civilians by Amhara regional forces that began in the year 2020.

Last year, Secretary Blinken publicly recognized that "Members of the Amhara forces also committed the crime against humanity of deportation or forcible transfer and committed ethnic cleansing in western Tigray," in addition to "war crimes" and "crimes against humanity, including murder, rape and other forms of sexual violence and persecution." This is on top of the involvement of Eritrean forces in Tigray. Eritrea is a separate country. It has no business having its troops anywhere in Ethiopia.

The determination made by our State Department on what is happening in Tigray follows extensive reporting by Human Rights Watch and

Amnesty International in April of 2022, which documented: ". . . Ethiopian federal forces, systematically expelled several hundred thousand Tigrayan civilians from their homes using threats, unlawful killings, sexual violence, mass arbitrary detention, pillage, forcible transfer, and the denial of humanitarian assistance."

We have many things going on in the world. I know that most of our foreign policy or a very large chunk of it is focused on events in Eastern Europe and Ukraine, but Washington cannot turn away from this issue, nor can we assume that the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement solves the problem.

The people of Tigray deserve our attention and the engagement of the United States and the entire international community. Our leaders in Washington need to focus on what has been the most deadly event of the last several years.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON).

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEXAS TECH

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the anniversary of a west Texas treasure. 100 years ago today, Governor Pat Neff signed senate bill 103 that created what would become my proud alma mater: Texas Tech University.

Today, Texas Tech's student population consists of 40,000 of the best and brightest young men and women from around the country and the world.

I love Texas Tech and everything it represents. Our first president Paul Horn said it best: "Everything that is done on these West Texas Plains ought to be on a big scale. . . . Let our thoughts be big thoughts and broad thoughts. Let our thinking be in world-wide terms."

Texas Tech has embodied that vision. Its students and alumni have lived up to that calling for an entire century. I am so proud to bear our banner far and wide.

On behalf of Red Raider Nation, as we strive for honor ever more, happy 100th birthday to Texas Tech. Wreck 'em, get your guns up, and God bless west Texas.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, seeing no one else who wishes me to yield them time, I yield back the balance of my time.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I think the next 2½ months of this institution are going to be consumed with the budget and the amount of spending. I don't think the press has done an adequate job of alerting the public to the crisis we currently have.

As we have talked before, we are headed towards the Federal debt of \$31

trillion being 100 percent of GDP. Of course, over time as the value of the dollar changes, it sometimes makes it difficult to see exactly how bad that is. The last time the debt was as great as the Gross National Product was the end of World War II.

Now, at the end of World War II, America was very economically strong because Japan and Europe were flattened by the end of World War II, but even more, we knew at the end of World War II that we were going to lay off hundreds of thousands of military personnel. We knew the factories would stop building the ships, the planes, and the tanks that were necessary for World War II, and therefore, we knew we were heading into a time of dramatically decreased spending.

That is exactly what happened. At the end of World War II, slowly we dropped from 100 percent of GDP debt ratio down to a little over 20 percent. Things were really getting under control. We were a little bit over 20 percent during the Presidency of Richard Nixon. Then things began to slowly rise again. Recently, in part with COVID and in part the completely reckless spending under President Biden, we are headed back to 100 percent again.

The American public has to stop and think. While we knew at the end of World War II spending was inevitably going to drop, we live during a time of an aging population in which the amount of money we are spending on Medicare and Social Security is going to continue to go up if we do nothing else.

Now, we sure should never, ever cut Social Security. I will not do that. We should not be reducing any Medicare benefits. That means we have to look at the rest of the budget.

What do we see in President Biden's vision for America?

Let's look at the budget that he has already proposed for the calendar year beginning October 1. Line after line after line does not show the cuts that are necessary that the Republican Party is prepared to make.

The Department of Agriculture is up 14 percent. The Department of Commerce is up 11 percent. The Department of Education is up 13½ percent. The Department of Energy is up 13½ percent. The Department of Interior is up over 9 percent. The Department of Labor is up 11 percent. The Department of State, which is wasteful, is up 11 percent. The Department of the Treasury is up 15 percent. The Department of the Treasury, of course, includes a nice equity advisory board. The Environmental Protection Agency is up 19 percent. The National Science Foundation is up 18 percent.

Wherever you look, President Biden has responded to the greatest debt-to-GDP ratio in my lifetime by raising spending 8, 9, 10 percent. The only areas without significant increases are the military, despite President Biden, as far as I can see, doing very little to