

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 is 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

try to end the war in Ukraine, and the southern border.

By the way, I want to repeat an anecdote to let the Chair know exactly the mindset of the Biden administration when it comes to Homeland Security.

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I was down on that border 2 weeks ago. I have been a fan of drug dogs, which are so necessary, given that the majority of drugs that flow across the border, killing 107,000 Americans, are very handy for the Border Patrol and ICE.

I asked a member of the Border Patrol union down there what he thought of the dogs, figuring he would, of course, want more. He said, no, they don't need more dogs because the last time the Border Patrol got more dogs, under President Biden—they bought 38 new dogs, not to sniff out drugs, not to prevent the killing of over 100,000 Americans a year. What did they do with the new dogs? They got therapy dogs because they heard the Border Patrol was stressed.

Of course, the Border Patrol is stressed. You have so many people coming across the border, and the administration is not acting or making the policy changes necessary to control the border.

What can you say for an administration when, presented with the possibility of new dogs at the border, it feels the priority is therapy dogs? If the Border Patrol agents feel stressed, they have a dog to pet.

That is a true story of the priorities of the Biden administration at the border.

In any event, you can see virtually many agencies with over 10 percent increases, with the major outlier being defense and homeland security.

We should comment a little bit more on the equity advisory board at Treasury. Not only does the Department of the Treasury have new bureaucrats designed to determine how we are going to treat people—by race, sex, or sexual preference—these new boards or commissions are put throughout the new budget. The function of these boards, I feel, is to divide America.

Rather than being the America that is the meritocracy that our forefathers envisioned in which everybody is being treated equally, the Biden administration, in the name of diversity, is including bureaucrats everywhere to determine who gets hired, who gets promoted, and who gets the relevant grants.

This is something that people are afraid to talk about, and I don't like to talk about it, but do we want to head into being a country—other countries have gone down this path—in which they say X number of people of this background have to be government employees here or grants have to go there.

It always results in very hard feelings. When you begin to hire people by that, you are not always hiring the best people.

I think Americans have to ask themselves, as we train the new generation of doctors, as we train the new generation of air traffic controllers, as we train the new generation of engineers, which determine the viability of our manufacturing as we compete with companies abroad, are we going to continue to hire the best and allow the best to be promoted? Or are we going to fall back into some sort of Third World country in which we divide our Nation by what other countries would call tribes? They might be religious or whatever.

I will repeat an anecdote I talked about last week, which I don't think the national press corps has picked up on, but they should pick up on.

Not long after President Biden took office, two Democratic Senators, TAMMY DUCKWORTH and MAZIE HIRONO, one from Illinois and one from Hawaii, said that they would not vote for any more of President Biden's appointees if they were White men, unless they were gay.

Now, that is an awkward thing to talk about. It is kind of scary that we had two U.S. Senators taking such a divisive position.

Then, we had a legal journal that did a little bit of research a couple of months ago on the judicial appointments by President Biden. Ninety-seven judicial appointments—the author of this article, I talked to her, was not even for or against it. She really had no opinions on what she found. Of the 97 new judges, only five were White men, and at least two of those five—might be more—were gay.

At least when it comes to judicial appointments, President Biden is following the path of a kind of dislike, almost hatred, for people who used to make up the majority of this country.

I hope more studies are done along those lines, and I hope there is a little bit of outrage because I have a feeling President Biden may be following down the same path when it comes to other appointees and, quite frankly, doing all he can to get the same sort of ratios when it comes to government spending, or trying to do this when it comes to businesses that do business with the government.

We recently heard, as well, that the Biden administration is doing what they can to penalize frugal borrowers. What they want to do is, if you want to borrow money from a bank and you are a good credit risk because you are not a spendthrift, they feel that you ought to have to pay a higher interest rate because they want to subsidize people who spend all their money and don't save money. They feel those people should get a lower interest rate.

I think this diversity has gotten out of control. There is a huge cost related to it. We have heard in the committee that I am on that there are bureaucratic diversity professionals who are making \$200,000 a year in our universities. More of these people are going to have to be hired by private business.

It is, first of all, at a time when we have a labor shortage insofar as there are people looking for new jobs. Those jobs should be in manufacturing, construction, agriculture, and even tourism. Wherever you look, we need more people, not more highly paid bureaucrats who, when they look at people, solely view people by race, gender, or sexual preference.

In any event, I hope the press does a better job of going through President Biden's recommendations line by line in the budget and see where there are the types of things we would look to see for a country that is in deep danger by the overall amount of debt we have. Particularly, I hope the press corps homes in on these new bureaucrats as to exactly what they are doing since their job is not to do anything productive but just make sure that everybody in the Federal Government looks at people as a token of race, gender, or sexual preference.

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Wisconsin, my fellow Budget Committee member, for his passion to save this country from a sovereign debt crisis and protect our Nation's next generation from reaping the whirlwind of this reckless spending and unsustainable debt path that we are on.

We must fight for the future of our country. All the things that are talked about in this great Chamber, all the great ideas, and all the threats that are posed to this country of ours and its future will all be undermined and jeopardized because we will have failed to simply steward the taxpayers' resources and our children's future.

I thank the gentleman for his leadership and his passion.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF GENERAL BERNHARD MITTEMAYER

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a true American hero and a very dear friend, General Bernhard Mittemeyer, who passed away this January after 92 rich, full, extraordinary years. He was a first-generation immigrant from South America who really lived the American Dream.

After 28 years in the military, he rose to the rank of general. He served as surgeon general of the Army under President Reagan, and he received a number of awards and recognitions, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, which is the highest peacetime award in the military.

I worked with him at Texas Tech, where he was a physician. He was the dean of the medical school, and he was the president of the Health Sciences Center.

He had an indomitable spirit. He had an infectious optimism. All of those things helped culminate in his leadership efforts to create the super-clinic for treating and servicing our wounded warriors in west Texas, in partnership

with Texas Tech. It has been a phenomenal asset for veterans in the western part of Texas. That is going to be one of many, but, I am sure, for him, it was the most special legacy that he left for the people of west Texas.

Mr. Speaker, it was an honor to know him. I am a better man for having come alongside him in my time at Texas Tech.

I also want to say of his wife, Marie Beth, that we love her and the Mitemeyer family. We are praying for them. We know that the general has gone to the great commander in chief in Heaven, and he is in a great place. He is alive as he has ever been.

We will be with General Mitemeyer once again. I take great hope and joy in that.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to the gentleman from Wisconsin for his indulgence.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 11 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-817. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a determination and certification; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-818. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 23-010, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-819. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 22-034, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-820. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 22-081, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-821. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Determination and Certification Relating to the Largest Exporting and Importing Countries of Certain Precursor Chemicals from the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. McCARTHY (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. COSTA,

Mr. VALADAO, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. KILEY, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. BERA, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. ISSA, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. CORREA, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. DUARTE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. TIFFANY, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. ROSS, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. FULCHER, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. PELTOLA, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mr. MOORE of Utah):

H.R. 2989. A bill to improve the health and resiliency of giant sequoias, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 2990. A bill to amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 to address sexual harassment involving National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. OGLES (for himself, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. CLOUD, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. AMODEI, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, and Mr. CLYDE):

H.R. 2991. A bill to eliminate the prohibition on training teachers with effective defensive tools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Mr. GALLEGO, Mrs. SYKES, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MCGARVEY, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. BROWN):

H.R. 2992. A bill to reauthorize title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BANKS:

H.R. 2993. A bill to counter the military-civil fusion strategy of the Chinese Communist Party and prevent United States contributions to the development of dual-use technology in China; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, Energy and Commerce, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN (for herself, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms.

TLAIB, Ms. NORTON, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mrs. PELTOLA, and Mrs. HAYES):

H.R. 2994. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish the Reentry Rental Assistance and Housing Services Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BICE (for herself, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. LUCAS):

H.R. 2995. A bill to authorize the National Mesonet Program of the National Weather Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mrs. BICE (for herself and Ms. STEVENS):

H.R. 2996. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to permit leave for an employee to meet their needs related to being a victim of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, or stalking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Accountability, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BOEBERT (for herself, Mr. BUCK, and Mr. LAMBORN):

H.R. 2997. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to Mesa County, Colorado, certain Federal land in Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. WASSERMAN

SCHULTZ, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GRIMALVA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. OMAR, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. HAYES, and Ms. PINGREE):

H.R. 2998. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to expand coverage under the Act, to increase protections for whistleblowers, to increase penalties for high gravity violations, to adjust penalties for inflation, to provide rights for victims or their family members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DELUZIO (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 2999. A bill to authorize the declaration of a hazardous train event, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas):

H.R. 3000. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the exclusion of Pell Grants from gross income, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DONALDS (for himself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. CAREY, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, and Mrs. BOEBERT):

H.R. 3001. A bill to require the Secretary of Education to implement corrective measures for a local educational agency or institution of higher education that prohibits or constrains fossil fuel sector employment recruitment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FINSTAD (for himself and Mr. STAUBER):