

that are lower risk. It doesn't mean that they are no risk, but lower risks. We know there are things that are medium risk, things that are higher risks, and so forth.

So you would think this is a very considered process that she went through. However, feedback from others in her State suggested the opposite.

Dale Folwell, who was the North Carolina State treasurer, said: I tried for months during COVID to get the council of State to convene with Dr. Cohen to explain the lack of transparency in the data used to shut down our economy and our schools. These decisions disproportionately hurt lower- and fixed-income adults and kids. By closing schools and the economy, it closed opportunity and upward mobility for students and citizens. The damage, he said, is generational.

That is how another Statewide elected official in North Carolina described the level of transparency and the implications during the COVID era, but what is even more revealing is comments that Dr. Cohen recently made herself.

In contrast to the more methodological approach that she claimed to have followed, she made these comments in a 2022 interview with the Duke Health Sector Management. When asked how she decided what to lock down, what could remain open, what wouldn't, she said: So I would call probably the person I called most was the Secretary of Health and Human Services in Massachusetts.

Dr. Cohen went on: When she was, like, are you gonna let them have professional football? And I was, like, nope. And she's, like, okay, neither are we. Neither are we.

At this point, Dr. Cohen laughs at this.

She goes on: So it was, you know, conversations like that, so or I'd be, like, when are you gonna think about lightening up on masks? They're, like, next Monday, and I'm, like, okay, next Monday.

See, this is what we all suspected was happening in many of these States that seemed to have no rhyme or reason to the way they went about these lockdown and reopening policies.

Here, you have President Biden's own presumptive nominee to be the CDC director saying, yes, that is exactly what she did. In a flippant and arbitrary manner, she decided what industries would be shut down and which would remain open, as well as what would be mandated and what wouldn't.

In addition to that, Dr. Cohen adopted many policies that were on the extreme end of the spectrum when it came to COVID mandates. For example, on July 26, 2021, she said: Schools with students in K-8 should require all children and staff to wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status.

Now, we have already seen this was a position that is at odds with the international norm. She also repeated claims that turned out to be false with

regard to transmissibility. She said in a 2021 interview with the Carolina Business review: What we heard from the CDC last week was even better than what we heard before, right. We had heard that vaccines protect you from getting COVID. I think the new piece of information for us was that we now have more definitive data to show that it prevents you from giving COVID to others. And that is really where masks come in, right, a mask is about protecting you from giving COVID to others even if you don't know you have it.

She also promoted masks for vaccinated individuals 7 months after the CDC dropped its mask requirement for vaccinated individuals. She said: We still need to mask—everyone. This was during a December 20 news briefing. Even if you are vaccinated, she said, you should wear a mask in public, indoor spaces, and if possible, wear a medical grade mask for more protection. This was in December 2021.

In addition to that, Ms. Cohen threatened to sue a school district, Union County School Board, for their decision to drop contact tracing and quarantine processes in September 2021. The dispute came after Union County Health Department officials would not work with the district on reducing quarantine times if students presented a negative test or other mitigation measures were used.

In other words, they were trying to get their kids back to school. School officials made this request to minimize the impact a quarantine has on students and their families; the Union County Public School's statement reads: Local health officials would not consider this request despite the fact that health officials around the State have implemented similar measures. The district also refuted Cohen's claims about infections in their district using her own agency's data.

Dr. Cohen also strongly supported vaccine mandates for healthcare workers. In July 2021, she said: Thank you to the North Carolina Healthcare Association and the health systems that are leading the way requiring vaccination for employees, for taking action to protect the healthcare workforce, their parents, our communities and the State. Vaccinations are our way out of this pandemic, she concluded.

Dr. Cohen also wore a double mask at an event in January 2021, and even posted a photo of herself wearing a mask with Dr. Fauci's picture on it.

Mr. Speaker, while this is not an appointment that will be subject to a vote in either House, I would simply encourage President Biden to acknowledge the lack of trust that exists right now in many parts of this country, with even Mark Zuckerberg saying that we had public health decisions that undermined public trust, and to instead appoint a CDC Director who will actually adhere to science, who will adhere to norms, and who will not take us down this road ever again.

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

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HONORING THE LIVES OF TWO GREAT MISSOURIANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BURLISON) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of two great Missourians who burned brightly, but sadly, their lives were cut short.

The first public servant from Missouri is William Duston. William Thomas Duston—his nickname was "Dub"—was a father, a public servant, and a Taney County community leader.

Dub was a well-educated man. He earned degrees from Middle Tennessee State and James Madison and a law degree from American University.

Upon finishing his education, Dub started a life of public service here as a legislative assistant to then-Senator John Ashcroft, a legend, until Dub returned home to Branson.

He subsequently became Branson's city prosecutor in 2006 before becoming city attorney, a role that he held until being elected the Taney County prosecuting attorney in 2018.

Dub had many jobs in his life, but his favorite was being a dad. He loved spending time with his wife and daughters. He loved cooking, and he loved restoring Ford cars.

Dub is survived by his wife, Charlie; his daughters, Shiloh and Raleigh; his aunts, his cousins, and extended family; and the Young family.

On behalf of southwest Missouri, I join Taney County and our community in honoring his life and lasting impact.

The second great Missourian is Ron Richard. Ron Richard was a father, grandfather, local businessman, and dedicated public servant to the city of Joplin and all of Missouri.

Ron started out his life owning and operating bowling alleys before entering a life of public service. During his three decades of public service, he served as a councilmember and then as the mayor of Joplin.

He then served as a State representative and was elected by his colleagues to be speaker of the Missouri House. Eventually, he served in the State senate, where he was then elected by his colleagues to be the president pro tem of the Missouri Senate.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, Ron Richard is the only person in Missouri history to serve as the leader of both chambers, the house and the senate, and only the fifth person in our Nation's history to have done so.

His career of service did not end with his retirement from the legislature. He was appointed by Missouri Governor Mike Parson to the Missouri Southern State University board of governors, a

position that he held at the time of his death. He also served on the board of the Missouri Higher Education Savings Program and continued to be active in local and State politics.

Beyond the titles and the accolades, he was a mentor and a friend to all who knew him, including me.

Ron is survived by his wife, Patty; his children, Kara and Chad; his grandchildren; and siblings and numerous family members who loved him.

It is an honor and privilege to have known him and to have had him as a constituent, as well. He exhibited a life of service, and we mourn his untimely death. Our prayers are with his wife, Patty, and the rest of his family and friends.

I will say that my life in public service began as a freshman, green, wet behind the ears, and Ron was my speaker. He was my leader. While being speaker wasn't the last role that he had—he was able to be the president of the senate—to me, he was always my speaker. Missouri lost a good one.

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

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUARTE). 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, we go home every weekend. In June, when we go home to Wisconsin, what do we think of? What is going on in June? June is Dairy Month in Wisconsin. It is Dairy Month around the whole country.

Of course, last weekend, I spent Dairy Month at Breakfast on the Farm in Winnebago County and Breakfast on the Farm in Manitowoc County, having milk and all sorts of different cheeses.

Whether you like Colby or provolone, cheddar or mozzarella, whether you like your milk pasteurized or raw, whole or 2 percent, whether you like cream cheese or just plain cream, Wisconsin is America's Dairyland, and everybody has to remember, June is Dairy Month.

Now, on to our next topic. I have just been reading about a KGB defector. What he wrote should be required reading for all Congressmen and all young children. His name, he has since died, is Yuri Bezmenov. He was a Soviet defector in the 1980s.

When he defected—he defected to China—he gave an interview about the KGB. He said things that I think are far different than what the average American thinks about the KGB.

He pointed out that about 85 percent of the KGB employees were not spies. They were not going around looking for nuclear secrets or finding out more about our military. They were wide out in the open. They were engaging in psychological warfare, subversion to destroy the American psyche.

He pointed out that what they do is out in the open, if only the press would pay attention. Well, you can see he was a newcomer to America, as he thought the press might pay attention.

He pointed out that, at the time, people might think we were at peace, but in fact, we were at war. It was a war, psychological warfare.

Nikita Khrushchev said the same thing. He felt we would destroy America from within. It would not be a military attack that would destroy America. It would be America losing confidence in itself.

There are a variety of ways in which the United States is, in my mind, in danger. Last week, we talked about the huge deficit, and President Biden, through a variety of bills last year, certainly put the value of the dollar at risk.

You can say we are in danger because we are losing the value of the family. Of course, John Adams said that our Constitution is built for a moral and religious people, totally unfit for any other kind.

We have a situation here in which a group called Black Lives Matter, which had a lot to do with the Democrats maintaining their majority in 2020, Black Lives Matter was opposed to the traditional nuclear family. Of course, they have a lot of allies here in Congress who presumably didn't object to that.

That is another way we could tear down America, through our growing welfare state, having more and more people without the psychological background of a family.

We certainly have a problem at the southern border. No normal country could survive unlimited immigration. We see two things going on down there. We see over 200,000 people a month streaming across the border, and we also see, compared to past administrations, even people who break the law are not deported.

□ 2110

You could say that is another way we are being destroyed from within. It is not a military attack, but it is over 200,000 people who have not been trained how to become Americans, who have not had drilled into them the freedoms that we should respect and that we are a great country because our great Constitution is supposed to have a limited government, guarantee us a limited government, and we are supposed to be self-reliant. That is certainly a problem.

We have the bizarre transgender movement. I ran into a gal the other day who had literal surgery taking away some of her organs at 15 years old and puberty blockers. That is another way to completely try to blend the difference of the sexes, which would be another way to destroy society.

What I am going to focus on tonight is the Biden obsession with racism. I think if there is one issue that Joe Biden seems most obsessed over, it is

this idea that supposedly in the United States we are a racist country. He brought it up four times in his inaugural speech and talked about white privilege once. This year, in his State of the Union speech, again Joe Biden talked about the racist police and if you are a person of color, you have to tell your children to watch out for the racist police. Obviously, this is an important message from Joe Biden.

He has certainly acted on it, as well. Right now, his Department of Labor nominee—she may make it; she may not—claimed in the past that we are a society built on white privilege, kind of this bizarre hatred of White people that I thought was merely in academia, but Joe Biden decided to try to appoint someone head of the Department of Labor who felt that way. I sure hope the Senate rejects her.

He is trying to appoint General Charles Q. Brown to be head of the Joint Chiefs. He right off the bat said we have too many White officers. He wants to restrict the number of White officers in the military to 43 percent. In other words, he doesn't want qualified White people becoming officers, because he has got some psychological problem there. I think we have to pay attention to that sort of thing when it comes to the Biden administration.

This is not limited to President Biden. Not long after he took office, both Senator DUCKWORTH of Illinois and Senator HIRONO of Hawaii threatened Joe Biden saying they did not want any more White men, that they were not going to vote to confirm any more White men in his administration. He met with them. They backed off that to a degree. I should say, he shouldn't appoint White men unless they are gay, which gets back to this kind of obsession with breaking away with the traditional family that we sadly have among the Democratic Party right now.

In addition to that, President Biden wants in his budget to have new equity action teams in all of our government agencies: the Department of the Interior, the Department of Justice. These equity action teams presumably will enforce the type of things that Senators DUCKWORTH and HIRONO want. They want to look at people's race before anybody gets hired. They want to look at somebody's race before they get a government grant. I think it is something that the American public is not discussing anywhere nearly as much as they should.

It is kind of particularly ridiculous, because, of course, you are never probably going to have a country in which more immigrants, who have different ethnicity than the native born, have succeeded so much and are so accepted. If you look around, the most successful ethnic group in America today are Indian Americans. You look at other wildly successful groups: Filipino, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Cuban. Thomas Sowell wrote 40 years ago—I can't vouch whether it is today or not—but