

Yesterday, House Oversight heard from two credible IRS whistleblowers with knowledge of the Biden criminal investigation.

According to the whistleblower, Hunter Biden and his associates raked in a total of \$17 million from China, Romania, and other sources between 2014 and 2019.

Knowing whether or not President Biden has been compromised or targeted by foreign actors is critical to our national security.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House to continue the investigations and pursue all reliable evidence. The American people deserve truth, transparency, and answers.

WE MUST RESPECT OUR PILOTS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I stand today to reinforce the importance of the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration, the FAA, because it is particularly important to realize that to move this Nation, we must make sure that we protect our passengers and our flight crew.

Besides the almost \$4 billion in airport improvement dollars, in addition to reinforcing the training and the protection of our crews, reinforcing pilots' doors, making sure we have diversity and reach out to all over the Nation to build the aviation industry by reaching out and training new pilots, as well as ensuring that passengers are dignified or treated with dignity and have the respect of airlines.

This is a bill that should have the ability to move forward out of this House, but I am unhappy about how the pilots were treated in terms of their opposition to the raising of the age. I will continue to work with the Senate to ensure that we listen to our pilots. I listened, and I hope that we will finally have an FAA bill that will really be securing growth and robust leadership in the American aviation community.

We must respect our pilots. They get us off the ground, they get us to our destination, and they get us back on the ground. We will continue to work and fight for our pilots and their issues.

CHINA IS PLOTTING A GOVERNMENT-BACKED DIGITAL CURRENCY

(Mr. MOONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOONEY. Madam Speaker, China is plotting a government-backed digital currency which will be used to survey and manipulate financial activities of its citizens and to crack down on dissent. A central bank digital currency, known as the digital dollar, poses significant privacy and government surveillance concerns.

Republicans have been clear that the Federal Reserve does not have the authority to issue a digital dollar without an act of Congress. The United States shouldn't have the ability to build and test one behind the scenes either.

Right now the Federal Reserve is contracting with the private sector to build digital dollars far beyond what we considered traditional research. That is why I introduced H.R. 3712, the Digital Dollar Pilot Prevention Act which closes this loophole.

Make no mistake, government-backed digital dollars are not about innovation; they are about control. We must stop the Fed's current development dead in its tracks, and my legislation does exactly that.

□ 1100

THE INCREASE OF TURBULENCE AFFECTING AIRCRAFT

(Ms. STEVENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill I authored that is included in the FAA package to research severe turbulence and the impact of climate change on the flight forecasts.

Turbulence is the top cause of injuries to both passengers and crew. My bill improves the FAA's understanding of turbulence to better inform safety measures for flight crews and the flying public.

Last month, a scientific study analyzed 40 years of high-quality atmospheric data. The researchers found severe clear-air turbulence increased 55 percent from 1979 due to climate change.

Further, other recent studies have shown that turbulence will increase significantly as the climate changes, with the most severe turbulence increasing by 149 percent over the next several decades.

We should all be concerned about the rise of turbulence and the projected increase in the years ahead.

Unfortunately, scientists and researchers have reported their difficulty in calculating turbulence due to limited data coverage.

That is why the FAA needs better tools and research to address passenger safety amid this threat to air travel. The FAA research we support today means that tomorrow, Americans will fly safer.

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CAN PROSECUTE ANY AMERICAN

(Mr. LIEU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LIEU. Madam Speaker, recently, Speaker MCCARTHY stated that if the Department of Justice can prosecute Donald Trump, then "they can do that to any American."

Speaker MCCARTHY is absolutely correct. If the Department of Justice can prosecute Donald Trump for unlawfully retaining top secret, classified documents that put American lives at risk and sharing those documents with random people, then yes, the Department of Justice can prosecute you for unlawfully retaining top secret, classified documents and sharing them with random people, because you are not above the law and neither is Donald Trump.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

ADDRESSING AIRPORT NOISE ABATEMENT

(Ms. PRESSLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise as the Representative of the Massachusetts Seventh Congressional District, which is home to Boston Logan Airport, critical to our economy, for travel, a job engine, and it has created a number of quality-of-life issues for those who live in proximity to it.

As a proud member of the Congressional Quiet Skies Caucus, I want to talk about what these constituents are experiencing—and they write my office daily—living proximate to one of the Nation's busiest airports: Loud air traffic starting in the early morning hours and lasting until midnight, adverse health effects exacerbated by interrupted sleep, aircraft noise, air pollution. It is all taking a toll.

That is why I support provisions in the FAA bill that invest in noise abatement, clean energy, and, most importantly, community input. It is through cooperative governance and listening to impacted communities, who are often the most underserved and overlooked, that we can advance policies that are responsive to their needs, the needs of my constituents in Charlestown, East Boston, Cambridge, and Somerville.

I am proud to have secured more than \$80 million for Boston Logan Airport, and I will work to ensure this bill and those funds move us closer to quiet skies in the Massachusetts Seventh.

WATER BREAKS ARE A BASIC RIGHT

(Mr. CASAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CASAR. Madam Speaker, I am GREG CASAR, and I represent the heart of Texas.

Thirteen years ago, I stood alongside construction workers as we sounded the alarm at Austin City Hall that workers were dying after being forced to work for hours on end in the sun without rest and without a water break. Our community came together and passed a local protection to guarantee everyone this basic right.

Five years later, families in Dallas were mourning the losses of fathers and sons and brothers and tios who died on the job because they, too, were forced to work without a water break. That community came together to pass protections that guarantee this basic right.

Now, as San Antonio bears the hottest 10-day streak in recorded history and as our globe bears the hottest days in recorded history, this month, people in San Antonio want to pass those same sort of protections, but Governor Greg Abbott signed a priority bill eliminating the right to water breaks for Texas workers beginning September 1.

People are dying, like Eugene Gates and Justin Cory Foster and Felipe Pascual, dying while working in the Texas heat this year. We don't need more Texans dying in the sun. Instead, we need OSHA and the Biden administration to take immediate action in passing a Federal heat protection rule, because bearing the Texas heat is brutal but forcing workers to work in that heat is cruel.

ADVANCES IN AVIATION

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the passage of the Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act. This achievement is the result of bipartisan efforts representing a significant step forward in transforming our Nation's aviation industry while addressing the issues and delays that flyers have faced over the last year.

I am particularly delighted by provisions in the bill which specifically focus on upgrading airport infrastructure and addressing workforce shortages in the aviation sector.

With increased funding for airport infrastructure upgrades, we are supporting nonhub airports like Pitt-Greenville Airport, enabling them to modernize their facilities. Additionally, large airports will expand capacity, enhancing safety measures and fostering economic growth.

I am committed to ensuring the effective implementation of these policies as we continue to advocate for measures that promote safety, economic viability, and a bright future for aviation in eastern North Carolina and beyond.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 4637

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I hereby remove my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 4637.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is accepted.

I RISE WITH A HEAVY HEART

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. And still I rise, Madam Speaker. I rise today with a heavy heart, and I say this because of the topic that I will share with persons based on a personal experience that I had.

I often say I rise in the spirit of Maya Angelou. I rise with the notion that I bring the gifts our ancestors gave on the dream and the hope of the slave. That doesn't apply to me personally, but generally speaking it applies to people of my ethnicity, my race.

I rise today with this heavy heart because of something that has haunted me since I saw it some many weeks ago, something that haunted me to the extent that I returned to my office after having seen it and called it to the attention of my staff.

I have had a good deal of consternation in terms of how to respond and react to what I saw, so permit me to share this vignette with you and a bit of commentary thereafter.

While visiting a local facility, a store in the area—I will not announce the name of the business. I can if I have to, but I choose not to today. While I was there for business purposes, I saw children come in. These children, I am going to guesstimate, 5 to 10. They came in the main entrance, they proceeded to move over to my left, their right, as they came in, and they had bags. They went up and down each aisle in the store collecting things.

They proceeded to do this all the way through the store, traversing the entirety of the store. When they arrived at the very last aisle in the store, they walked out.

There was a peace officer, or what appeared to be a peace officer, an officer in uniform, standing there as they passed. They did not go to the cashier, the cash register, the person, the clerk who was collecting funds for items that were being purchased. They did not go there. They didn't go over to the self-check area. They merely walked out of the store with bags of goods that they collected while in the store.

Now, let me pause for a moment and say something that is important. I will come back to the story, the vignette. There are things that happen that cause me to pray that the person who did this was not a person of color. When I hear of these dastardly deeds, there is something within me that says, God, I hope that is not a person of color.

I don't want to have it be any person. I don't want to see dastardly deeds done. Because of the history of people of African ancestry in the country and how there was a time when there was a constant drumbeat to style them as persons who were doing dastardly deeds, I relate, and I just don't want to

see that done. I always pray that it is not a person of color. I don't want it to be any person at all.

In this case, I happened to witness it, and I have to tell you, these were all children of color. Now, an Anglo person saying this would probably be called a racist by somebody. I want you to know that I saw this, I am saying this, and I believe that they were children of African ancestry.

They walked out of that store—continuing with the vignette—and they did it slowly. They casually strolled through the door, not having paid for the goods that they collected as they walked up and down each aisle in that store.

My mother would call that theft. The constabulary would call that theft. I call that theft. I saw the crime committed.

I went over to the officer myself, and I spoke to the officer: Did you see that? The officer responded truthfully. He said he did. I made an inquiry as to why the officer did not act. The officer was very candid. He explained to me that there had been an encounter wherein an officer or someone did act, and that person was harmed, the person who tried to stop this behavior, and that they had been told that this was not something that they would make an attempt to prohibit or prevent.

I was shocked. I have heard about these things. I have seen things on television where large groups of people run into stores and take things, smash and grab and leave. It is different when you actually see it yourself.

The story doesn't end here. After what I saw, I moved over to pay for what I had. Then two other children came in. This time there was a child that may have been 9 or 10 years old, maybe 12. It is hard to guess. There was another child that was probably about a foot or more higher than my walking cane, probably, in my opinion, 6 or 7 years old. This child had a bag and collected things. In my opinion, I would say a baby, a child.

□ 1115

When this child reached the exit near the officer—and I am standing there and saw it—this child looked at the officer, and the officer looked at the child. I thought for a moment that the officer would react. This child turned to that officer and stared. He just stared at the officer. As we would say in my neck of the woods, he stared the officer down—a baby. Then he walked out the door with goods that he had not paid for.

Friends, it doesn't matter your color. At some point, we have to take a stand. This cannot be tolerated.

Does anybody really think that these children are going to stop after that one incident? Does anybody really believe that they won't do things at some point in the future that will exceed petty theft?

I am only speculating, but my guess is that this can be the genesis of bad things to come. It has to be dealt with.