

## ISSUES OF THE DAY

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, as I was preparing to give remarks, I was listening to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, and one of the points being raised was about champions of Title IX and what would they say. I think that is a fantastic question.

Just today, in the House Judiciary Committee we had a witness, a young lady who is a swimmer for the University of Pennsylvania. I asked her whether Lia Thomas is a man or a woman. This female swimmer replied without hesitation that, indeed, that swimmer is a biological male.

Now, that gets sometimes dismissed as, I don't know, humorous or absurd or whatever in these culture battles, but the fact is the young lady testifying was a victim of sexual assault and didn't want to have to be in a bathroom changing with a biological male.

Yet, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle dismiss it. They dismiss Riley Gaines' concern about competing against a biological male, while they champion Title IX. You literally can't even make it up. Come to the floor, champion Title IX, and yet they destroy Title IX by virtue of saying, oh, yeah, it is fine. It doesn't matter if you are a dude. Suit up, jump in the pool and swim.

I asked one of the witnesses today, I said, well, you know, is the international federation of swimming, or whatever it is called, is that some grand rightwing conspiracy?

She kind of chuckled and said no. She knew where I was going, which is, that organization had banned Lia Thomas and other biological males from competing against women in the 2024 Olympics because of course they did, at least if they are being at all rational. It doesn't mean that won't change. It doesn't mean that the irrational won't take over. It doesn't mean that the absurd won't define how we live our lives.

But at least, in this case, the committee said, huh, yeah, maybe a dude shouldn't swim against girls in the swim meets.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle dismiss that as rightwing lunacy, MAGA extremism. I never know what I am. I support Ron DeSantis and I am a MAGA hater. On the floor of the House, I am a MAGA extremist because I dare to stand up for the American people who are sick of having their world turned upside down.

I have my colleagues on the other side of the aisle saying, well, we have important work to do, but all they care about are book bans. Well, that is just a lie. It is just a straight-up lie, the accusations of book banning.

Do you know what kind of books have been put on the chopping block in Florida? Books that have straight-up

pornography in them that parents dared to say, wait a minute, I don't think I want that in the public schools library.

Now, wait, is that what a book ban is? Because if it is, sign me up. Sign me up because I don't want that in my kids' library, and that is actually the fundamental question.

Are we going to stand up and say we are going to stand up for our kids? Are we, in this body, are people who just want normalcy and their lives back in legislatures across this country and in governors' mansions across this country going to stand up and say yes, there is man and there is woman; and no, the men shouldn't compete against women in their swim meets or their track meets.

No, we shouldn't put pornography of any kind, straight, gay, otherwise, in the public libraries of our kids' schools, and then be labeled as book banners; because if that is what you are going to do, I am going to stand up and say yes.

Meanwhile, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to shut down free speech. They want to say anything I am saying—in fact, what I am saying right now, they would say is disinformation. What I am saying right now, they would say if I put it on social media, they would be all too happy to have Big Tech companies with the power of government shut down my speech.

Now, I am protected on the floor of the House, but every American is supposed to be protected with free speech. I am going to keep saying it. I am going to keep saying that Lia Thomas is a dude, and I will say it here, and I will say it on social media, and I will say it on the streets. If they dare try to stop me, that is what the First Amendment is all about, and we are going to stand up and defend that. We are going to stand up and defend normalcy.

We had accusations that, oh, this is all made up. We actually had somebody in one of the hearings today in which we were talking about transgender issues and so-called dysphoria, we had a young lady who, I could barely speak after I heard her testimony. I could barely figure out what to say to her because she had started to be transitioned, changed sex, realized that she was going to lose the ability as a woman to breastfeed her children—hopefully one day—and she stopped.

She was testifying today about the horrors of the pressure being placed upon her to change her sex. She broke down in tears.

Then she was talking about one of the other witnesses at the table, a mom that was talking about her child, the Democratic witness, and saying how important it was to be able to have the transition.

Here is what our witness, Chloe Cole said:

“I understand that Mrs. Reynolds is scared for her child and I just want to set the record straight that I don't hate her. I don't think anyone in this room hates her.

“In fact,” she said as she began to cry, and all of us, by the way, on the dais were holding back tears, “I see my own mother and my own father in her, and that clearly she dearly loves her child and she is doing the best with that she has been given and, unfortunately, it is not much, and for that I am sorry.”

She remained emotional and she continued, she said:

“I think every parent deserves the utmost grace and guidance with how to help their child. I don't wish for her child to have the same result as I did.

“I don't wish for anyone to regret transition or detransition because it is incredibly difficult. It comes with its own difficulties and it is not easy.”

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle call that hate speech. They say that if we bring these questions up about transitioning people's sex, their God-given chromosomes and sex because you have got pressure on social media and the devil that is or are these devices that our kids spend hundreds of hours on, and you wonder, if I dare say that, oh, no, that is hate speech.

If you think I am crazy, look around the world. Look around the world. We had a public official in Finland who was being prosecuted last year, prosecuted, and is still having to go through it, for daring to have distributed materials saying that she believed in traditional marriage instead of same-sex marriage. She was being prosecuted, despite being a member of the Parliament.

I am just telling you, America, it is coming to a theater near you. Don't think for a minute that the people who are decrying what I am saying as hate speech don't want me to be in jail for it. They do, in a heartbeat. I would be put in jail for daring to stand up in defense of my faith, my values, my beliefs and, in this case, for simply saying there is man and there is woman. That is where we stand as a society.

I heard my colleagues on the other side of the aisle—this is not what I came to the floor to talk about, by the way. But I heard my colleagues on the other side of the aisle talking about schools and how we want to, you know, scare parents, by talking about these issues. This is all to scare parents they said in the hearing.

Well, how about this? Today, news report: Vermont school district removes male and female from the reproductive system lessons.

Let that sink in for a minute. I want you to think about it.

What is the first thing you do if you are a farmer and you get a new calf, or you are trying to—what do you do? Is it a boy or a girl?

What is the first thing you do when your baby is born? Is it a boy or a girl?

They are literally taking out of the lessons in the Vermont school district on reproductive system, they are taking out male and female. That is so bat-crap crazy I can't even possibly put it into words.

Yet, I am the one, according to my colleagues on other side of the aisle, who is hateful because we are trying to pass in a National Defense Authorization Act language to say that perhaps—color me crazy—our Defense Department should be focused on a mission to kill people and blow stuff up when called upon to do so, hopefully, on a limited basis, but really dadgum effectively when called upon to do so.

I think if I polled most Americans, they would say I want my defense to be better than every other country, by an order of magnitude, highly trained; and I don't think any of them would rank diversity, equity, inclusion, or transgender surgeries high on the national defense authorization list of priorities, or climate change.

I don't think most of my constituents care that they drive around battery-powered jeeps or battery-powered Hummers or battery-powered tanks. They actually want them to work. They actually want them to blow things up.

So we dare to say, how about the National Defense Authorization Act focus on defense?

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle come down crying hate, crying that we are injecting culture wars into the Defense Department. Well, wait. Who exactly is it that injected culture wars into the Defense Department? This administration, my Democratic colleagues, and we are trying to get defense back on track. We did so, by the way.

But our Democratic colleagues in the Senate are going to refuse to take up the version of the National Defense Authorization Act that we passed. They are going to want to cleanse it.

Let's not forget, some of my colleagues from the other side of the aisle, that when they cleanse it, what they are really doing is polluting the Department of Defense, which is driving down recruiting and driving down our effectiveness. We are losing simulations by the day. Our numbers are going down by the day. Our effectiveness is going down by the day. Our stockpiles are going down by the day because they have turned the Department of Defense into a social engineering experiment wrapped in a uniform, and that is criminal and we shouldn't stand for it.

That is not the only thing we shouldn't stand for. Yesterday, I had the pleasure of having Alejandro Mayorkas, the Department of Homeland Security Secretary before us in the Judiciary Committee. I reminded the Secretary that about 15 months ago he appeared before the Judiciary Committee.

When he did so, I asked him, point blank, Mr. Secretary, do you have, in your job as the Secretary, operational control of the border? He said, I do.

I said, wait. You have operational control of the border? I pulled up the statute, the Secure Fence Act, which requires this country and the Sec-

retary carrying out his job to maintain operational control.

□ 1645

I pulled up a second board with the statute definition of operational control. It means you do not allow anybody to come across the border and into our country without papers and knowing who they are. You don't allow illegal trafficking. You don't allow narcotics to come across. You have operational control of the border.

I put all that up. I said, are you sure you have operational control of the border? The Secretary said, I do. I pushed on it multiple times.

Funny enough, in a different hearing later this year over in the Senate, the Secretary changed his tune. He said: Well, by that definition under the Secure Defense Act, I don't use that one. Under that definition, nobody has ever had operational control.

The fact is, the Secretary wants the American people to believe that our country is in charge of our border when anybody with eyes knows that it is the cartels that have operational control of our border. It is wide open and lawless while Americans are dying as a result of fentanyl poisonings; migrants are dying in the false name of compassion, as my Democratic colleagues pat themselves on the back while 53 people roast in a tractor-trailer in San Antonio, which I represent; and little girls are sold into the sex trafficking trade, as exposed in the "Sound of Freedom." Cartels are making tens of billions of dollars moving human beings for profit.

That is what is happening, and my Democratic colleagues don't care, and the Secretary of Homeland Security doesn't care. The Secretary of Homeland Security lied in front of me, in front of the entire Judiciary Committee, in front of all America, by saying that he has operational control of the border when faced with the statute, knowing what it means and knowing full well that he does not, we do not, our country does not.

Governor Abbott was being criticized on the floor today by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle because he is putting up barriers. He is putting Texas DPS, Department of Public Safety, troopers down on the Rio Grande. He is deploying barriers in the middle of the Rio Grande. He is being criticized for being heartless.

Who is it that is heartless? Those who want the rule of law enforced and to tell the world that you don't flood our borders in a way that is going to empower cartels and endanger yourself, or is it heartless to allow all of those people to get sold into the sex trafficking trade, die in the Texas heat, get abused, get used by cartels like the Federal judge in Texas who upward departed a few weeks ago from the penalties under our statutes and the sentencing guidelines because he ran across a case where the cartels had a stash house in Fort Worth, Texas, a

man illegally here, a father who was in Baltimore, Maryland, and he was being told by the cartels his daughter would be raped if he didn't pay \$23,000.

That is happening every day in our country, every single day in the supposed greatest country on the face of the Earth and in history. We stand here, 435 of us, in front of that flag, and that flag is supposed to mean something, and it sure as hell doesn't mean anything if little girls are getting raped right here in D.C., up the road in Baltimore, in Houston, in San Antonio, in Laredo, in Fort Worth.

We have evidence it is happening every day, and we don't do anything about it except pat ourselves on the back and say, well, we can just interpret parole and interpret asylum laws and just tell the world to come on up through Mexico, but don't mind the fact that thousands of you are going to die. You are going to get used by the cartels. You are going to pay millions of dollars, and your little girls are going to get exploited—the sound of freedom, indeed.

We should be ashamed of ourselves. By the way, that goes for Republicans and Democrats because it has happened under both of our watches for far too long.

Why am I standing in front of this chart? Because, about 4 months ago, we passed in this body H.R. 2. We passed legislation that we know—we don't believe; we know—would take significant strides to securing the border of the United States, reestablishing operational control, limiting the flow, limiting the power of cartels, empowering ICE, empowering Border Patrol, reestablishing the rule of law so that we can be the beacon of hope that people want to aspire to come here to live under. Of course, that bill is sitting over in the Senate that doesn't give a whit.

What do we do about it? That is my question for Republicans. I can sit here and bash my Democratic colleagues all day long for not caring about what is happening in Texas, for not caring about the five kids in the school district where I live who died from fentanyl poisoning, not caring about the 200 a day dying from fentanyl poisoning while fentanyl pours cross our border, not caring about what is happening to Border Patrol agents, not caring that the Secretary of Homeland Security lied about Border Patrol agents allegedly whipping Haitian migrants, which we knew didn't happen and the Secretary knew didn't happen 2 hours before he went to the microphone and said they did it and they did it because of systemic racism.

All of that is true, and my Democratic colleagues will not want to pass H.R. 2. So, what will Republicans do about it? That is the question, and the answer is that we should recognize the power of the purse.

James Madison, Federalist Paper No. 58: “The House of Representatives cannot only refuse, but they alone can propose the supplies requisite for the support of government. They, in a word, hold the purse. . . . This power over the purse may, in fact, be regarded as”—and this is the most important part—“the most complete and effectual weapon with which any constitution can arm the immediate representatives of the people for obtaining a redress of every grievance and for carrying into effect every just and salutary measure.”

What that means is, we get to decide how the tax dollars and the borrowed dollars are spent to carry out the laws of the United States and no one else. We control the power of the purse. We are the people’s House. It is our job to decide how those dollars are spent and then hold the executive branch accountable for carrying out the laws using those taxpayer dollars.

That is not only our opportunity; it is our duty in the House of Representatives.

That is the question for Republicans. Will we take inventory and decide whether we care more about steak dinners at night, making a golf event, or coming down to do three votes in a week and then getting home for the weekend?

I mean, I noticed today is Thursday. We have one appropriations bill passed. We are not coming in tomorrow. We are blowing out for a 6-week recess. The government is going to run out of money on September 30. That is one thing we know.

Most people I represent would tell you that they don’t think we ought to spend more money, that we ought to spend less. So, the question is, between now and September 30, approximately 60 days from now, are we going to find the ability to pass appropriations bills that reduce spending, take our country back, and, most importantly, check the executive branch from the tyranny that they are engaging in over the American people?

The Department of Homeland Security is decidedly not securing the homeland. It is just true by any objective measure.

Last September, I asked my House and Senate Republican colleagues if they would vote for a CR and continue to fund the tyranny being waged by this administration. I sent a letter with six pages of examples of how a CR would continue funding the very things the GOP Members of this body campaign against.

That was September 27 of last year, about 40 days before the November election. What are the things GOP Members campaign against? Open borders and funding for open borders; authoritarian bureaucrats, the FBI, the IRS, the ATF, and the funding for those bureaucrats; tyrannical public health agencies that shut down our economy, mandated vaccines, mandated masks, and funding for those

agencies; destructive energy policies through the Inflation Reduction Act, EPA, and Department of Energy undermining the ability of this country to produce reliable energy that makes the world work—by the way, 3 billion people on this planet do not have reliable energy and a billion people don’t have electricity at all; funding for radical, anti-American ideologies at the Department of Education, NPR, and HHS; funding for the degradation of our national security with a woke Department of Defense. Nevertheless, 22 Senate Republicans still supported the CR, as did 10 House Republicans.

Funding runs out on September 30, and here we sit, once again—with two notable differences. We are now operating under bloated spending levels established by the FY23 omnibus bill passed last December. If you don’t know what that means, it is just the way this place works. Spending runs out in September. If we haven’t passed appropriations bills through both bodies that are signed by the President, people freak out. They want the lights to stay on. October 1 rolls around, and they pass a continuing resolution to keep the government going. Might pass it for a day or a week or a month. Often, they pass it for about 75 days.

Why would you do that on September 30 for about 75 days? Do the math. That ends up in the middle of December. The uniparty establishment of Washington elite, who doesn’t give a crap about debt, who doesn’t care about what is happening in their country at the end of the day, really cares more about getting home for Christmas. That is why.

What happened last December? That happened. A couple of days before Christmas, a \$1.7 trillion omnibus spending bill was passed, funding Ukraine to the tune of about \$45 billion, increasing defense spending by about 10 percent, increasing nondefense by about 7 percent. All of that got done while what? While we are at \$32 trillion of debt and counting, long before, by the way, a big deal was cut raising your debt another \$4 trillion on Memorial Day.

Again, that happened while Republicans were in charge of the House, and 17 Republican Senators voted for that. Why? I will tell you why: The defense establishment in this town, combined with those who wanted to try to do something for Ukraine, said: Well, we know we have a lot of debt, but we have to cut a deal. I want to go home for Christmas. I want to wear a blue and yellow pin on my lapel. I want to feel good about myself. That is okay. I will pass the buck down to my kids and grandkids with a big pile of debt.

Again, I am going to ask my Republican colleagues, will we vote to continue to fund this tyrannical government while our border is wide open, little girls are getting abused, some 80,000 to 90,000 Americans a year are dying from fentanyl poisoning, cartels are in power, and China is in power? Are we going to continue to do that?

□ 1700

We have the power of the purse. Will we use it, or will we curl up in a little ball, like we tend to do every single year, and say: “Oh, no, they are going to criticize us for a government shutdown”? Every year, like clockwork.

I am all for moving the appropriations bills and getting them done by September 30, but I can promise you, as sure as the Sun is coming up tomorrow, CHUCK SCHUMER and Senate Democrats are not going to bless the appropriations bills that we move through the House. They are not going to. They are going to then want to claim it is Republicans who are shutting down the government.

The question is, when we wake up on October 1, are we Republicans going to have agreed to spend even one more dollar to advance a tyrannical government that is stepping over the rights of the American people at the Department of Justice and the FBI, that is funding a woke government at the Department of Defense that leaves \$85 billion behind in Afghanistan with no real accountability?

Importantly, for the purpose of what I want to talk about more right now, is the border. We have seen 5.6 million illegal crossings since January 2021. Under Secretary Mayorkas and President Biden, the number of known or suspected terrorists caught by border agents has increased each year: fiscal year 2021, 15, their first year; FY22, 98; FY23, 140 so far.

You think: “Oh, gosh, they are doing their job. They caught all these guys.” Well, what about the 1.8 million or so got-aways? Is anybody concerned about the got-aways when you know you have 140, so far, individuals nabbed who are known or suspected terrorists?

We have lost 85,000 kids, gone missing, can’t track them.

As I said before, Border Patrol has seized 22,000 pounds of fentanyl. I don’t know if you understand, but a sugar packet of fentanyl could kill most of the people in this room, depending on its strength. They have seized 22,000 pounds of fentanyl, which would kill hundreds of millions of people.

China sells the printing presses to cartels to make the pills that are killing our kids, kids that take Xanax or Adderall, boom, one pill, dead. It happens all across America. There are 72,815 fentanyl poisonings, 200 per day.

I represent Texas. As of this month, 46 Texas counties have declared an invasion because of the number and volume of migrants entering their communities. They have to deal with schools. They have to deal with hospitals. They have to deal with crime. They have to have police do the job that needs to be done. They have to deal with bailouts. They have to deal with fences getting cut. They have to deal with livestock getting out. They have to deal with fentanyl pouring into their communities. They have to deal with marijuana traffic. They have to deal with all sorts of dangers.

Texas has appropriated \$10 billion to deal with the border. Texas should get that paid back.

I will be very clear. This Member of Congress will not vote for a single CR or DHS appropriations bill that does not address the border security issue, turning H.R. 2 into law, removing the actors at DHS that refuse to do their job, and paying Texas back for the damage being done to the State I represent.

I am not going to be alone. If those Senators think they are going to roll us, they have a fight on their hands—including Republican Senators. I don't care what party you are in. I don't care if you are a Republican or a Democrat. The time for our border being in chaos and dangerous and endangering migrants and endangering Americans, the time for that to end is now, not after another Presidential election.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle say: "Oh, we like to use all of this for politics, to raise money, to campaign on it." My constituents are sick of hearing about it. I don't get a whole lot of praise from my constituents for talking about it. They want us to end it. They are exhausted—ranchers breaking down in tears, 75-year-old crusty Texans who find a dead body on their ranch or are worried about their children, their livestock getting out, the ranch that has been in their family for years. Moms come to me having lost their children, like Stephanie Turner, who lost her son, Tucker, and who I have gotten to know, along with dozens of others.

The Secretary of Homeland Security has the audacity to come before the House Judiciary Committee and say he has it all under control and lie. Yet, a number of my Republican colleagues run around going, well, that is not a high crime or misdemeanor. Constitutional scholars, indeed.

It is, in fact, an impeachable offense to lie under oath, and the Secretary of Homeland Security has lied under oath. Putting aside all the other stuff, putting aside ignoring the laws, putting aside endangering Americans, all purposefully, put all of that aside, you think, "Oh, that is maladministration. Maladministration was rejected by the Founders. Don't you see, Chip?" I get these lessons all the time, Con Law 101, from my colleagues.

First of all, not 100 percent true. Maladministration is viewed by some of the people who have studied this to have been subsumed into what was known to be high crimes and misdemeanors at the time our Constitution was adopted.

Put that aside. The Secretary lied to us. That should mean something. That should matter. We should act on it. Either remove him or stop funding him or both.

I am going to call the question. This is fair warning. Oh, don't surprise me, I am told around here. Don't be surprised. It is July right now. We have 60 days until the government runs out of

funding. I am telling you, I will fight the rule. I will fight every bill that comes to this floor that in any way will fund the Secretary of Homeland Security to continue to lie and fail to secure the homeland.

The things that we need to do we laid out in H.R. 2, the bill we passed this spring to secure the border: restart infrastructure, border wall construction; clear the cane; build roads; provide the resources needed to actually contain the flow; permanently implement the remain in Mexico policy that President Trump adopted that requires migrants to stay south of the border while any asylum claim is adjudicated; end catch and release; keep migrant families together while their claims are processed; treat minors from noncontiguous countries the same as we treat minors from Mexico by saying we will return them to their families; and end parole abuse and asylum abuse, restoring them to their original intent.

These things will reestablish the very rule of law that attracts migrants to come here. If you think and say, as my colleagues on the other side of the aisle often do, that this is anti-Brown, anti-Hispanic racism, that is a lie. Talk to Hispanic Texans, Hispanic Americans, sick of watching their communities get decimated, sick of watching the rule of law crumble, sick of watching cartels get into power, sick of watching their own die from fentanyl poisoning.

I am not going to allow the race-baiting and the game that we are going to call you racist to cow me away from standing up and defending the border of the United States, which we are required to do. I am not going to do it.

That is why I am going to keep offering amendments to end diversity, equity, and inclusion programs. I am going to keep offering amendments to stop the racial division being sowed by my colleagues on the other side of aisle, including the President of the United States and everybody running these agencies, undermining our Department of Defense, dividing our country, sowing seeds of hatred rather than bringing us together under that flag united. We should end it. I am not going to back away from it ever.

Let me close with one final point. I have some colleagues who I know want some time, and I will be happy to give it to them.

I have focused a lot on the border. There are a lot of things that need to change. When we passed the Limit, Save, Grow Act as a Republican Party in, I think, April, I felt that was one of the high watermarks, along with passing H.R. 2, of this Congress and laying out a vision for where we want to take the country—find a path forward to balance the budget, limit spending, cut the size and scope of the Federal bureaucracy, secure the border of the United States, limit the devastating damage that the so-called Inflation Reduction Act will be causing on our ability to be energy independent and the strength of our national security from

energy freedom, cutting down the expansion of the Internal Revenue Service. There are other items in that, but we laid out an agenda. I hope we will stick with that as we go through the appropriations process.

In addition to the border, I have to say that the Inflation Reduction Act, which is effectively funding slavery in China, Congo, and around the world, needs to be ended, needs to be capped, limited, or ended.

Goldman Sachs estimates the IRA's unreliable energy subsidies will cost \$1.2 trillion. Do you want to know how you ended up with \$32 trillion, soon to be \$36 trillion, in debt? There you go. We pass a debt ceiling limit increase. Within a month, we had already added another trillion dollars to the debt.

The IRA massively subsidizes EV purchases and manufacturing. The EPA has mandated two-thirds of new cars be EVs by 2032. I live in Texas. Driving from Austin to Midland ain't easy to do in an electric vehicle. I also don't have \$70,000 sitting around to buy a new car that then is expensive to deal with when the battery goes out.

All of this is heavily owned by China. China has 80-plus percent, pushing 90 percent, of the battery-making manufacturing base. We are literally handing to China our entire energy security. It is like literally one of the stupidest things a free people has ever done. At a moment when we have military strength and economic strength that is being challenged around the world, the geniuses of this administration and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle decide we need to turn over our energy industry to our adversary.

It is so much worse. The Democratic Republic of the Congo produces 70 percent of the world's cobalt. NPR reported on how modern-day slavery in the DRC powers the rechargeable battery economy with children and mines. There are probably 10,000 to 15,000 tunnels that are dug by hand by artisanal miners. None of them have supports, ventilation shafts, rock bolts, anything like that, and these tunnels collapse all the time, burying alive children who are down there.

Trafficking—you have these malicious, sometimes called commandos, who will abduct children, traffic children, and recruit children from other parts of the DRC.

China owns 80 percent of the industrial cobalt mines in the DRC and controls 15 of the 19 primary mines in the country. It controls almost 80 percent of electric vehicle battery manufacturing. Eighty percent of solar panels installed in the U.S. come from Chinese firms. I could go on and on.

Meanwhile, while they do this, China has 1,100 coal-fired plants. We have 250. China is building two new coal-fired plants every week. We are sitting around playing unicorn games saying, hey, let's throw up a few more windmills and solar panels and just hope that we will be able to get our power from China.

□ 1715

Can you imagine, in 1939, going: Hey, let's go over to Germany and say, Why don't you provide our energy, we have a deal for you—or Japan. Here we sit. I want to bring it back to the final point and then I will be yielding time to my colleagues in whichever order they choose.

This is about humanity. We are empowering tyrants who are abusing children in mines around the world, enriching a handful of leftist elitists in the country through corporate cronyism to the tune of \$1.2 trillion in the so-called Inflation Reduction Act while little children get exploited.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle pat themselves on the back because they are fixing things for climate change. No, you are not. You are not denting CO<sub>2</sub> production. You could get rid of every single internal combustion engine and you are going to drop CO<sub>2</sub> production by 2 or 3 percent.

Meanwhile, our border is wide open. Meanwhile, as I said today, while I am sitting here in this Chamber a little girl has been driven up I-95 through the Nation's capital up to New York as part of the sex trafficking trade. The data indicates that it is so prevalent that it is likely true.

We know of the stash houses around this country. We know of the abuses being perpetrated on children. We know of the deaths of our children in this country to fentanyl poisoning. I am not going to subsidize and fund evil.

I am asking my Republican colleagues to join me in committing—before we get to the September 30 shutdown—to join our arms together and stand to thwart an administration that is tyrannically undermining our freedom and our safety in Texas and throughout this country. Little children, our kids, and our people are dying by the thousands because we refuse to do the basic duty of government, which is to secure our national borders.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY).

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, as we go through our appropriations process, as we started here today, we must ensure that the United States is prepared to combat China. While the left wants us to focus on the latest partisan pet project, China's actions demand comprehensive and strategic response to safeguard our national security, economic competitiveness, and democratic values.

Internationally, China's aggressive military buildup poses a direct challenge to the United States. With the largest Navy in the world and efforts to rival our capabilities, it is crucial that we prioritize investments in our defense to deter any potential aggression and to protect our interests in the Indo-Pacific region. Additionally, the PLA Rocket Force's efforts to build a

significant stockpile suggests that China is preparing for long-term competition and conflict.

China's global infrastructure projects further solidify its position as a trade and economic power. While economic cooperation is important, we must be cautious of the potential debt-trap diplomacy where China leverages loans to seize assets and influence the policies of indebted countries. This undermines the sovereignty of nations and challenges the rules-based international system, and directly counters democratic values.

Closer to our own borders, China's ambitions in South and Central America and its plans to establish a listening station, as they call it, in Cuba to monitor U.S. bases are clear signs of their growing assertiveness and aggression. We must not underestimate their determination to expand their influence and challenge our homeland security.

We are also engaged in a tech race with China. While we currently hold an edge in innovation and technology, complacency could lead to China overtaking our sector. We must invest in research, education, and technological advancements to maintain our lead and secure our national interests, not to mention the use of social media like TikTok to gather data on our citizens.

Furthermore, the influx of cheap goods from China into the United States has had more adverse consequences, well beyond the surface that people understand. It cuts the incentive for American manufacturing and promotes China's use of forced labor, which goes against our values as a Nation that upholds human rights and fair labor practices.

We cannot afford to ignore the challenges posed by China's rise and assertiveness. We must be prepared to take a comprehensive approach that combines strengthening our defense capabilities, upholding democratic values, investing in our economy and technology, and safeguarding our citizens' interests in data.

This is not about escalating tensions or seeking confrontation, but rather about responsibly protecting our great Nation's interests and encouraging global peace and stability through American strengths.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS).

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to support the U.S.-Taiwan partnership. I recently joined a congressional delegation to visit Taiwan. While in Taiwan I met with President Tsai Ing-wen and discussed our shared national security, economic, and political interests.

I also witnessed firsthand how patriotic and fiercely resilient the people of this island nation are in the face of an increasingly aggressive Communist China.

Taiwan is a critical partner to the United States in the Indo-Pacific region and shares our unwavering com-

mitment to freedom, liberty, and democracy in every corner of the world.

Moreover, we have longstanding economic ties.

Taiwan is America's eighth largest trading partner, and America is Taiwan's second largest trading partner.

Taiwan's ingenuity, entrepreneurial spirit, and skilled workforce have resulted in an island nation of just 23 million people producing 90 percent of the global semiconductor supply—vital components in the microelectronics ecosystem—and essential to life in our modern digital age.

In addition to strong economic collaboration, Utah and Taiwan have strengthened their relationship through educational and cultural exchange programs.

The decades-long economic, cultural, and geopolitical bond between our two beloved countries has established a legacy of mutual understanding, regional security partnership, and deep appreciation for our shared values.

Unfortunately, the Chinese Communist Party's evil regime increasingly encroaches on the territorial integrity of Taiwan with provocative military exercises and the buildup of its armed forces in the region. This threatens the rules-based international order.

That is why I joined the House Republican majority to establish the Select House Committee on the Chinese Communist Party to counter the imminent danger posed by the CCP to the strength, resilience, and sovereignty of Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, I was proud to vote "yes" on the fiscal year 2024 National Defense Authorization Act, the NDAA, to provide robust investment in our defensive capabilities in the Taiwan Strait and support their right to defend themselves from CCP aggression.

As a member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I reaffirm my commitment to policies that continue to improve the U.S.-Taiwan ties and enhance America's military infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific region and ensure peace in the South China Sea.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Utah.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Ms. SALAZAR), my friend.

Ms. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Miami's new resident, and futbol legend, Lionel Messi. It is an honor to host a world-class athlete in my district.

Messi signed onto Miami's soccer team, Inter Miami, which kicked off its inaugural season in Major League Soccer 3 years ago. His presence is already making an impact in my community. He brought home the first win of the 2023 Leagues Cup with a free kick in the 94th minute of the game.

Today, Messi is a household name, but he was born to humble beginnings in Argentina. His father was a manager at a steel factory and his mother worked in another factory.

He started playing futbol at the age of 4, coached by his father, making his senior debut at 18 years old. He credits his dedication to soccer to his beloved grandmother, Celia, and continues to honor her at every game he plays.

Some of his many achievements include winning the World Cup and its Player of the Tournament award in 2022, being named best FIFA player three times, and winning the Champions League four times.

He has scored over 800 goals at club level and he scored the most goals of any player in a calendar year with 79 of them.

Personally, Messi is a devout Catholic and lives his faith through charitable works. He established the Leo Messi Foundation in 2007, working to improve children's access to healthcare and education.

Inter Miami is blessed to have this elite player on their team, and the significance of his presence extends beyond the field.

This extraordinary player is going to inspire children in my district to work hard to achieve their dreams. He said, "I start early and I stay late, day after day, year after year. It took me 17 years and 114 days to become an overnight success."

The lesson he is conveying is that you can pray for a house, but sometimes God gives you a hammer, lumber, nails, and talent. Don't be fooled into thinking that he did not answer you, you have to put in the hard work.

Every person has the opportunity to succeed if they are dedicated to accomplishing their goals, especially in this country, the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome Messi to Miami, and may his hard work be an inspiration to everyone who has a dream for their life. God bless him, his wife, and his three sons as they begin a new life in Miami, which is part of the 27th Congressional District, the best district in the United States.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I close by recognizing an individual that I have grown very fond of in my time here at the House of Representatives. I don't do a lot of these Special Orders and come down and talk about individuals, but since I have been in the House, getting to know Joyce Hamlett has been an extraordinary pleasure and honor.

I wish Joyce were on the floor at this moment because she is going to be retiring here shortly, either tomorrow or next week. She has worked here on the Hill for 35 years.

Speaker MCCARTHY already gave a fantastic speech detailing her bio and background. She grew up in North Carolina and she will be returning to North Carolina. She devoted 35 years here, working up from being in the cafeteria with her mom, if I remember correctly from Speaker MCCARTHY's speech, and serving as the elevator operator.

For over a decade, she has faithfully protected the mace. The mace of the

House of Representatives is one of the oldest symbols of the United States Government representing Congress' order and authority. Her duty is to protect the mace that opens the House each day and closes it each night.

Mr. Speaker, I would note she was also responsible for keeping decorum on the floor of the House of Representatives, and I have been the recipient of her admonition on more than one occasion. It has been, frankly, an honor to receive it.

Mr. Speaker, I will miss her and I wish her God speed in her retirement. I thank her and all the staff that serve the House of Representatives. She is one of the best. I have worked with a lot of people over the years, she is an exceptional human being. We are a greater country and a greater body for her service.

Mr. Speaker, God bless Joyce, and I hope to see her today or tomorrow before she goes off to North Carolina.

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

#### HONORING FERNANDO VALENZUELA

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fernando Valenzuela, former pitcher and current Spanish-language broadcaster for the Los Angeles Dodgers. He is a husband, father, grandfather, and on top of that he is a cultural icon for Latinos worldwide.

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Coming up on August 11, 2023, the Los Angeles Dodgers will be retiring his number, Number 34.

This honor will cement his legacy with other Dodger greats such as Jackie Robinson, Roy Campanella, and Sandy Koufax. It is certainly a fitting tribute.

Fernando Valenzuela's name is synonymous with Los Angeles sports culture. His nickname, "El Toro," and his iconic, unorthodox pitching windup, raising his hands above his head and glancing skyward before tossing his deadly screwball, is just as much a staple of Los Angeles sports history as Kobe Bryant's 81-point game or Vin Scully's legendary calls, but his impact extends far beyond Los Angeles.

Fernando's humble origins and charisma made him an inspirational icon for Latinos across not only just Los Angeles, but the entire Nation. He expanded the footprint of Latino players in the sport, building on the legacy of Latino players like Roberto Clemente transforming the demographics of baseball's fan base and player base.

Fernando's inspirational story reflects the awesome potential that all immigrants can achieve their dreams right here in America.

I am honored to stand before you today, Mr. Speaker, to share some of that beautiful and amazing history.

Fernando Valenzuela was the youngest of 12 children born to an impoverished family in the town of Etchohuaquila, Sonora, Mexico, in 1960. His parents, Avelino and Maria, were farm workers of native Mayo descent.

While pitching in the Mexican league for the Mayos de Navjoa in 1979, Valenzuela stunned famous Dodger scout, Mike Brito, with his talent. After falling behind 3-0 in the count, Fernando tossed three perfect strikes to close out the game, prompting Brito and the Dodgers to take a gamble on Fernando. It took just over 1 year for Fernando to ascend to the majors.

After signing Valenzuela in the summer of 1979, the Dodgers assigned him to the Lodi Dodgers of the High-A level California league, then to the San Antonio Dodgers of the Texas league.

His stay in the minor leagues was short-lived, and in September of 1980, Valenzuela was called up to the Los Angeles Dodgers. In the last month of the season, Valenzuela helped the Dodgers by pitching 17 scoreless relief innings.

One year later, Fernando would experience a season that can only be characterized as a spectacular dream come true. 1981 for the city of Los Angeles was our bicentennial, but really, only one word can describe 1981 in L.A.: Fernandomania.

After a teammate suffered a last-minute injury, manager Tommy Lasorda named Fernando to be the Dodgers' opening day starter.

Fernando won his first eight starts, including five shutouts. After returning from a midseason strike, Fernando won the Cy Young Award, Rookie of the Year, Silver Slugger, and a World Series.

Fernando kept his streak alive off the field. He married the love of his life, Linda. The ceremony was attended by 4,000 people and drew congratulations from then-President Ronald Reagan. Fernando and his wife, Linda, have four children. The couple celebrated their 41st anniversary last year.

Fernando would continue to pitch for 15 years with five additional teams, adding to his resume a no-hitter and six consecutive All-Star selections.

Fernando's impact on the field was phenomenal, and his greatest impact was actually off the field.

Before Fernando, baseball largely ignored Mexico as a scouting destination. Since Mel Almada, the first Mexico-born Major League Baseball player, debuted in 1933, Mexican players accumulated little name recognition and few accolades beyond Bobby Avila and his batting title in 1954.

While Fernando was not the first Mexican-born player on the Dodgers, he reached a new stratosphere of skill and popularity. His talent helped catapult Mexico into a coveted destination for Major League scouting and funding. Fernando blazed a trail for future Mexican greats like pitchers Yovani Gallardo and Teddy Higuera.

He helped build that infrastructure that cultivated the careers of fellow