

both Houses haven't passed all the regular appropriations bills by September 30 for the fiscal year starting October 1.

We could have been in a situation this morning where our entire Federal Government workforce was getting no pay, but Members of Congress still would have been getting their paychecks, and that is wrong. This bill will incentivize Congress to get it done and prevent future government shutdowns. This brinkmanship is no good for our economy.

I came to Congress to get things done. I will continue to set aside the noise, find common ground wherever it exists, and deliver for the people of North Carolina's 13th District.

#### NO MORE EMPTY PROMISES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last month, more than 400,000 illegal immigrants crossed the Darien Gap into Central America on their way to our southern border, nearly double the number that had arrived in all of 2022.

Let's put that number in perspective. Mr. Speaker, 400,000 is more than double the populations of Altoona, Johnstown, Chambersburg, Lewistown, Breezewood, Gettysburg, Waynesboro, Mifflintown, Newport, McConnellsburg, Greencastle, Huntingdon, Shippensburg, and Bedford combined.

It is clear that President Biden's border policies, which welcome illegal immigration, have created a national security crisis, a public health crisis, and a humanitarian crisis, all due to the porous southern border.

Since Joe Biden took office, there have been a total of 7.6 million encounters at our southern border, and for the third year in a row, Americans are now on track to see the worst border crisis in our Nation's history.

This year, we have seen public schools used as holding facilities for illegal immigrants instead of being used for American students who are already suffering from historic learning losses following Biden's prolonged school shutdowns.

While an influx of illegal immigrants has strained the food banks, the shelters, and the hospitals along our southern border, this administration continues to turn a blind eye and refuses to assist the communities that are threatened and in need.

It is time for the Senate to pass the Secure the Border Act, which would: first, force the Biden administration to restart construction of the border wall; second, increase the number of Border Patrol agents; third, end catch and release; and, finally, deploy the new technologies that our Border Patrol agents have requested in order to help secure our southern border.

President Biden's failure to address this crisis is simply unacceptable. Re-

port after report from Eagle Pass, San Diego, and McAllen shows that this crisis will only continue to worsen each and every day.

We can't afford business as usual from Washington, and we cannot abandon our Border Patrol agents who deal with this problem. It is time for Democrats in Congress to join us and deliver real solutions and not more empty promises to the American people.

#### AMERICA'S DAMS ARE TICKING TIME BOMBS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we are going to pick up where we left off over the weekend, sort of the high school drama about governing the House of Representatives.

We have some people who are playing with fire. We have watched them work to the brink. It happened earlier in the spring where we were dealing with the debt ceiling, and we are back at it now, dealing with what we are going to do in terms of funding the government going forward.

We know where this ends. There will be an agreement in November or December or January that largely follows the outline of what we all agreed to do in the spring. Democrats, Republicans, and President Biden had an agreement that set the top-line numbers to be able to move forward with the budget.

Ultimately, I think the governing wing of the Republican Party will come around and work with a unified Democratic Caucus to be able to fulfill the commitment that we made in the spring. Whether or not KEVIN MCCARTHY is Speaker or not is largely irrelevant in terms of this larger issue. The governing wing of both parties will come together and, I think, will do what is right for the American people based on what we agreed to do months ago.

In the meantime, we actually have work to do. There are issues that need our attention. In *The New York Times* 2 days ago: "It's Only a Matter of Time Before More Dams Fail." We watched two dams in Libya collapse, killing more than 11,000 people. This should be a wake-up call for those of us in the United States.

There are more than 91,000 dams in the United States. The average age is 61 years. For about one-third of those, the failure would result in loss of life and significant economic loss and environmental damage.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act included hundreds of millions of dollars for dam safety, which was welcome, but a minuscule amount of what we need to do when there is about \$76 billion of immediate need dealing with dam safety.

There are some very cost-effective solutions. One of them we pioneered in the Pacific Northwest, which is just re-

moving the dam. In 2012 and 2014, we transformed the ecosystem of the Elwha River in Washington, the largest dam removal in American history, and we are currently working on an even larger project, with four dams being removed on the Klamath River in southern Oregon and northern California.

Dam removal is much more cost-effective. I have worked on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to try to have a system where anytime a dam removal was more cost-effective than trying to renovate it that it would be authorized.

We are looking at the changing landscape, the problems with the Colorado River, where the dams no longer have intakes where they will be able to get the water out. We are looking at dead pools being formed along the Colorado River.

We have to rethink the way that hydrology works, the dam works. Climate change has radically adjusted our notion of what we can and should do with them for the future.

This is but one example of a simple, commonsense, direct effort that we should take that will save lives, save money, and regenerate the environment, as we are going to see in the Klamath River Basin.

Working with Native Americans on nature-based solutions for climate challenges, we are all going to be better off, and then we can perhaps stay away from the sideshows here that are entertaining but don't get us anywhere.

#### SELF-INFLICTED CALAMITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, Benjamin Franklin described the limitations of any deliberative body in his closing speech to the Constitutional Convention. He said: "When you assemble a number of men to have the advantage of their joint wisdom, you inevitably assemble with those men all their prejudices, their passions, their errors of opinion, their local interests, and their selfish views. From such an assembly can a perfect production be expected?"

We have certainly approached these limits in our deliberations in recent days, and I pause for a moment to assess where we are and where we are going. The Roman Empire fell for many reasons, but the two most prominent were that it destroyed its economy by overspending and failed to secure its borders.

Clearly, these two self-inflicted calamities are converging right now upon our country, and we are fast running out of time to avert them. For this reason, House Republicans have sought, with the most slender of majorities, to reverse these policies, albeit imperfectly.

A few weeks ago, we passed H.R. 2, the strongest border security bill in a

century. Over the past months, our majority on the Appropriations Committee has drafted the 12 appropriations bills, which bend discretionary spending down and enact important reforms.

I admit that we are inexcusably late in that process. The approach of the fiscal year, though, provided us impetus to complete this work. Last week, we began taking up and adopting appropriations bills that now comprise 70 percent of Federal discretionary spending on the eve of an impending shutdown.

□ 1215

We have learned from experience that a government shutdown can be administered in a manner that does enormous damage to the economy and to the lives of millions of Americans.

The President, if he wishes, can destroy every small business on Federal land and those adjacent to Federal land. Obama went so far as to barricade every monument and memorial, chain the gates of every acre of Federal land, and even barricade the turnouts overlooking Yosemite Valley so that people couldn't even pull over to catch a glimpse of it.

Mr. Biden had made it very clear that he had intended to follow that strategy, specifically designed to create a panic and to force an immediate resolution in favor of the status quo.

Accordingly, our Conference put forward a 30-day continuing resolution to avert a shutdown, while reducing non-defense discretionary spending by 8 percent and enacting the border security bill that we had previously passed.

Unfortunately, 21 Republicans joined House Democrats to defeat this resolution. Now, out of time and faced with an imminent shutdown, our Conference directed the Speaker to put a 45-day continuing resolution on the floor without the previous reforms as the only way to avert a shutdown and to continue our work to complete the appropriations process. We canceled the October recess to complete this work.

Yet now we are faced with the threat that a Republican will move to vacate the Republican Speaker of the House. It will only require four other Republican Members to join the Democrats to achieve this result. The immediate effect will be to paralyze the House indefinitely because no other business can be taken up until a replacement is elected, just when we are on the verge of completing the appropriations process that, in turn, will finally initiate discussions with the Senate that are vital to change the dangerous path that our country is on. I cannot conceive of a more counterproductive and self-destructive course than that.

The supreme irony is that this is being initiated by self-described conservatives. Do they honestly believe that when the Democrats side with them to remove a Republican Speaker that they will then side with them to name a more conservative replacement? Of course, not.

The Democrats will certainly recruit the most liberal Republicans to establish a left-of-center coalition to run the House. This is exactly what happened in California in 1994. A coalition Speaker will move the administration of the House sharply to the left and effectively end the Republican House majority that the people elected in 2022.

I implore my Republican colleagues to look past their prejudices, their passions, their errors of opinion, their local interests, and their selfish views, and to make a wise decision when it is needed most at this critical moment in the life of our country.

#### SECRET SIDE DEAL ON UKRAINIAN FUNDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to raise a question: What was the secret side deal on Ukraine?

House Democrats and President Biden have said that as Speaker MCCARTHY was asking Republicans to vote for a continuing resolution so as to avoid having to take the Senate's plus-up in Ukraine money, that the Speaker of the House was actually cutting a side deal to bring Ukraine legislation to this floor with President Biden and House Democrats.

So let me get this straight: To extend Joe Biden's spending and Joe Biden's policy priorities, the Speaker of the House gave away to Joe Biden the money for Ukraine that Joe Biden wanted.

It is going to be difficult for my Republican friends to keep calling President Biden feeble while he continues to take Speaker MCCARTHY's lunch money in every negotiation.

The Speaker of the House has responded to these reports of a secret side deal on money for Ukraine, opaquely stating that he still wants to fund Ukraine and our border.

I have a few replies to this statement.

First, the Speaker's statement confirms the existence of a secret deal. I have talked to Members of our own leadership who have said they didn't even know that Speaker MCCARTHY was negotiating a secret side deal outside of our Conference, outside of his own leadership team for the sake of Ukraine.

Second, Ukraine has lost the support of a majority of the majority. The last time there was a freestanding Ukraine vote on this floor, it was last week—101 Republicans voted for it, 117 Republicans voted against it.

According to the Hastert rule, which Speaker MCCARTHY agreed to in January, you cannot use Democrats to roll a majority of the majority on something as consequential as Ukraine. So for all the crocodile tears about what may happen later this week about a motion to vacate, working with the

Democrats is a yellow brick road that has been paved by Speaker MCCARTHY, whether it was the debt limit deal, the CR, or now the secret deal on Ukraine.

Third, this is swampy logrolling. The American people deserve single-subject bills. I get that a lot of folks might disagree with my perspectives on the border or on Ukraine, but can we at least agree that no matter how you feel about Ukraine or the southern border, they each deserve the dignity of their own consideration and should not be rolled together where they might pass where each individually wouldn't?

This is what we are trying to get away from. This is the spirit of the January agreement we made with the Speaker. No more lashing these disparate issues together so that the American people's interests are subjugated here on the floor of the House.

Do you know how we should stand up for our border? Demand that the United States Senate take up our single-subject appropriation bill that funded the border. It created Republican unity. We voted for it. It has the policy demands that the continuing resolution that Speaker MCCARTHY advocated for on this floor did not.

Our DHS's funding bill requires E-Verify, and then hours later after we passed that, the Speaker wanted us to vote for a continuing resolution that didn't include E-Verify. Retreat is never a strategy to win anything.

Mr. Speaker, just tell us, what was in the secret Ukraine side deal? What commitments were made to President Biden to continue the spending of President Biden in exchange for doing things for President Biden? It is becoming increasingly clear who the Speaker of the House already works for, and it is not the Republican Conference.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that these questions be answered soon because there may be other votes coming today or later this week that could be impacted by the answers to these questions. Members of the Republican Party might vote differently on a motion to vacate if they heard what the Speaker had to share with us about his secret side deal with Joe Biden on Ukraine. I will be listening. Stay tuned.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President and to direct their remarks to the chair.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO FIRE CHIEF STEVE KNORREK ON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Fire Chief Steve Knorrek on his retirement.

His four-decade long career of extraordinary dedication, commitment,