

To your point, why would we continue to fund and give billions of dollars a month—hundreds of billions of dollars a month to a lawless administration that is perpetrating this kind of harm on the country?

I would submit that never in the history of the country has our own President done more to intentionally harm the United States than what is happening with this border.

□ 2000

I will say it again. Never in the history of the country has our own President done more to intentionally harm the United States than what this President has done with the border. Give me an example of something that comes close.

The American people are counting on us. They gave us the majority a year ago because we ran on fiscal responsibility. We have not met that responsibility. We ran on securing the border, yet we continue to maintain the spending levels and policies with continuing resolutions and extensions that don't deliver for the American people.

They are trusting us, and they are putting their faith in us to stand in the gap to be that one barrier to the policies under which they are suffering and that are destroying the America that we know and love.

I am proud to serve with the gentleman from Arizona and many of my colleagues here in Congress who are ready to do what needs to be done, to make the tough choices, to cast the tough votes, and to honor the trust and faith that the American people placed in us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to serve with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

Let me say two things. I am more than willing to be here over the next 5 weeks if it means that we can work to get these things addressed.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you one more reason why you should not be giving up on FISA and why you should not be extending it. It is because the authorities and warrants issued before April 10 will continue on into 2025. We will have lost, perhaps even forever, our ability to reform a program that has been weaponized against the United States of America and our beloved fellow citizens.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

ISSUES IGNORED BY THE MEDIA

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am going to try to talk about some issues

that our press corps has not adequately covered. All of these issues will be brought to the fore sometime in the next 3 months, and well-informed citizens should have an opinion on them. That means that, to a degree, the press corps has to do a good job of educating the citizenry on these issues.

The first issue I am going to talk about one more time is immigration. There is some time in the next 8 weeks in which an agreement is going to have to be reached regarding the huge problems we have on the southern border. These problems have been largely ignored under the Biden administration, and it is time that something be done.

I want to recount right now that, in the most recent months, we are having about 240,000 people cross the southern border. Every month, we hit new records for that month. In October, we again exceeded where we were 12 months ago and 24 months ago.

In addition to the fact that we have about 240,000 people crossing the southern border, we have a situation in which about 9,000 unaccompanied minors, people under the age of 18, are coming here without either parent.

We also have a situation where of the about 240,000 people who are crossing the border, about 60,000 are what they call got-aways. In other words, they have had no contact at all with the officialdom of the United States Government. Of course, these people are particularly dangerous because they haven't even gone through the perfunctory check that other people go through when they show up at the southern border.

It should also be pointed out that the United States is not being pikers at all when it comes to allowing other people into this country. The American citizenry should know that, in the most recent year available, over 1 million people were sworn in as new citizens to the United States. This is the third highest on record at a time when we are following a year that was over 900,000. We are kind of in unprecedented territory for a 2-year period.

When I was a child in the 1960s, by comparison, about 100,000 people a year were sworn in in the United States. We worked that way up in the 1980s to be about 200,000.

So, when we say 1 million people a year are being sworn in as citizens of the United States, we are really changing things in this country. As a result, nobody can say or should be able to say that we are not doing our fair share in welcoming more people into the United States.

It should also be pointed out that the number of people who are being deported from this country is now a fraction of what it was a few years ago. In fiscal year 2019, about 270,000 people were deported. In the most recent year available, that number has fallen to 72,000.

On one level, we are multiplying the number of people coming across the border by a factor of 10, and then once

people come here and break the law or whatever, we are now kicking out or deporting about one-quarter of the number that we were 4 years ago.

The Biden administration has not cared about this at all. However, there are going to be multiple discussions with the Biden administration not only with regard to appropriations bills that are coming up but supplemental bills that are coming up.

This is the biggest crisis facing America today. We are permanently changing the United States by allowing this many people to come across the border.

I want to point out to the American public that John Adams said that our Constitution was fit for a moral and religious people and totally unfit for anybody else.

Insofar as we are allowing people in our country who do not have a love of freedom and who want to turn their lives over to the government, we are going to ruin our country. It will no longer be the wonderful country that we grew up in. When we invite this many inappropriately vetted people, that is a definite concern.

There is also a concern for the American Government. We are right now in a position where we are borrowing 22 percent of our budget. A significant number of people crossing the southern border are going to have to be taken care of by the Federal Government. They won't be able to find jobs. Not only will they not be able to find jobs, but they are coming here without complete families. Their children are going to be educated. President Biden promised during the 2020 election that he would provide free healthcare to people coming here illegally. We are doing that. That is also very expensive at a time when we don't have money for more.

As a result, I think it is a situation that has to be cleaned up and finished before we pass any more of what we call supplemental bills in this Chamber.

In particular, people are asking for tens of billions of dollars in aid to Ukraine. I think everybody would like to see them get that money, but at a time when we are having to flood money in to take care of people crossing the southern border, I don't think we have that money until that problem is cleaned up.

I hope the American citizen is paying attention to this.

Again, to summarize, 10 times as many people are crossing the border as there were 4 years ago. The number of people being kicked out, usually for breaking the law, being deported, is about one-quarter of what it was 4 years ago. The number of people who are being sworn in legally—when people say, oh, we ought to let some people here—there are over 1 million right now. We are near historical highs on that level.

I hope the American press corps reports these numbers. They should certainly be in the paper. It should certainly be in the paper when eventually we get new information on the number of people who have come into this country in November.

Mr. Speaker, all you have to do is look on television to see it is getting worse and worse. That is an issue that not much attention is being paid to.

The next thing I want to talk to the American public about is what we call appropriations bills. Here in Congress, if things are done right, we do not pass one budget at the end of the year. We pass 12 separate bills as we divide the government into 12 separate agencies.

There are disagreements between the House and the Senate regarding each one of those bills. However, one of the things that touches all of these bills is the degree to which the Federal Government is going to get involved with diversity regarding what we could call affirmative action—or an obsession with judging people by their race or judging people by their gender. This is a debate that is going to be had between the Republican-led House and the Democratic Senate right down the line.

We have had a situation where we have been identifying people by race since Lyndon Johnson really kicked this into gear in 1965. At that time, companies that had at least 50 employees and did over \$100,000 of business with regard to the Federal Government had to submit information annually to the government.

As a practical matter, it meant that businesses were advised to pay attention to race when they hired somebody, when they promoted somebody, and when they let somebody go.

It also meant that the Federal Government was paying attention to race and gender when government contracts were let, and we have a bureaucracy that is advising American big businesses that are doing it in-house.

Right now, President Biden's goal is to greatly increase these roles of bureaucrats when hiring decisions are made in Federal agencies so that when we do government contracting and government grant writing, we are paying increasing attention to where people come from or where their ancestors came from.

In another area, the Biden administration is currently trying to set up a new ethnic group to get preferences or special consideration, and that is the group called Middle Eastern and Northern African people.

It is a little bit unusual, but the American citizenry should be aware of this. They should be aware that the government is currently in the process of adding this group to the number of people who are going to get preferences. Before they do that, there should be an open debate of whether this is necessary or not.

It is kind of interesting in that I read some information on this topic. His-

torically, I think the reason for this type of thing was the feeling that people had been taken advantage of or were not given a fair shake in the past. Right now, people who are considered Middle Eastern and North African actually make considerably more than the native-born American. American median household income across the board is slightly under \$100,000 a year. Middle Eastern and North Africans are making about \$115,000 a year.

Mr. Speaker, even if you buy into the idea that the American Government should be looking at people not on the basis of who they are today but on where their ancestors came from, we are really not in a position where we can say that these people have been put upon or not been treated very well.

When I go home and talk about these issues, I find that almost no people that I know are aware that we are about to add Middle Eastern and North Africans to the affirmative action mix, which means, of course, the American press corps is not doing its job. It is kind of a fundamental change in a given group if they apply for a government job, if they apply for a government grant, or if they are getting a government contract. If there are going to be preferences, then it is something that should be openly discussed on editorial pages, on talk radio, and what have you.

I think the American press corps has largely hidden this fundamental change in the way we do things, and it is time we have an open debate with regard to this.

It is a little bit interesting because other groups that are supposedly subject to discrimination or supposedly are different also do better than the average American. Right now, the wealthiest subgroup of Americans are Indian Americans. Also very wealthy are people from the Philippines, people from China, and people from Cuba. All of these people, in the mythology of the left, are people who are apparently being discriminated against, but actually, they are doing better than the average American right now.

I wonder why we would set up a bureaucracy to keep track of what these people are doing or making sure they somehow get preferences.

A debate is going to be had throughout putting together these appropriations bills, and in each one of the bills, that debate will, to a degree, focus on whether President Biden gets his new committees or commissions in every government agency doing all that he can to highlight differences between people and judge people by where their ancestors came from.

□ 2015

Before I move on from this topic, I should point out that these people self-identify. Insofar as you hear that diversity is important to have a well-running company or a well-running government agency, in order to buy into that, the government, in deter-

mining whether or not you are a member of a preferred group, allows you to be a member of that group if you are maybe only a quarter or a half of that ancestry, which seems a little bit unusual.

You can be, for example, a quarter Mexican and have yourself classified as a person bringing a diverse view to the world, even though you perhaps have never set foot in Mexico and grew up in an average American suburb and even if people didn't know that you had a different background.

I think in a desire to cause more importance for this occupation of these diversity bureaucrats, and in an effort to drive up the number of people who supposedly need help from the government, we allow people to self-identify. People who are one-half or one-quarter members of a group get preferences of that group.

We allow the fiction to come into play that even though you have never stepped foot in the country of your ancestors—somebody comes here from the Philippines, and their grandchildren never step foot in the Philippines. They know very little about the country, but for diversity's sake, we are supposed to make sure we have a given number of people who apparently have the Filipino-American viewpoint of the world.

I think that is something that ought to be discussed, as well, before we continue down this path and give the Biden administration any more victories in these appropriations bills by hiring new bureaucrats to enforce the new laws.

These bureaucrats, people with majors in diversity, are not all hired by the government. They have become increasingly common in large industry. I think they are afraid of lawsuits or whatnot, so big businesses hire these people and decisions as to who is going to be hired are increasingly made in big business to meet the targets that these diversity specialists give people.

Of course, it can result, first of all, in hard feelings as people are judged not by their skills but, to a certain extent, by their ancestry.

I have talked before about what happens in other countries where we have affirmative action. Hard feelings develop over time. Sometimes they result in civil wars, as they did in Sri Lanka.

In any event, I think the efforts that the Biden administration is making to bring in new groups and to increase the apparent number of people who are advising our government agencies as to who to hire, before this goes up, it ought to be subject to an open debate.

It is not being debated. I think it is not being debated because the mainstream media has not explained to the American public the huge role that these groups play or these occupations play in personnel decisions, both in private businesses and in the government.

The other thing that I want to bring up is kind of a leftover from President Biden and his last State of the Union Address.

President Biden has talked about his respect for members of the trans community, and he has done what he can to highlight them in a positive light.

I want to bring to the public's attention a book I have read, "When Harry Became Sally," in which a discussion is made as to how we should handle people who come out as transgendered, particularly when they are young.

I think it is of interest when our society is deciding how to deal with these people in school, to deal with them medically, what the compassionate thing to do is. I think one thing that is not brought up enough when we talk about the transgender situation is that, left to their own devices, over about 90 percent of the young people who identify as transgender work their way out of it.

I don't think it has been adequately reported in the news media that other countries that went through this transgender situation just like America—I am talking about Great Britain, Sweden, Norway—have all backed away from embracing transgenderism in young people, which can include not just puberty blockers but things up to and including physical surgeries, having body parts removed even while people are minors. I think even a lot of people who have this done when they are adults regret it.

Nevertheless, the mainstream media and our President have largely encouraged people down this path and say they are fighting for them, giving people, I think, still more attention.

Mr. Speaker, when you consider that over 90 percent of the people who begin down this path break their way out of it, you would have to say that positive attention is going to slow down the decision of so many young people to stop going down the transgender path.

I don't think this has adequately been talked about in the media. President Biden and his Department of Education are doing what they can to try to force acceptance of this lifestyle on school districts. By forcing it on people, they have to realize they are going to create a situation in which more young people wind up doing medical things, some of which are irrevocable, cannot be undone.

I hope that President Biden will change his mind on this. I wish he would stop highlighting this community in a positive light because when you do that, I believe, you are causing people who are going to change their minds to not change their minds. One has to look at the long-term effect these people are having, particularly when you consider that over 90 percent of the people will not continue down that path unless perhaps they are encouraged to do so by people like the President of the United States.

In any event, those are three issues that I think we read about in the paper. I think only one side of all these three issues is too often presented, but I leave you, Mr. Speaker, with statistics on the number of people crossing

the border and whether we can continue down this path. I also leave you with a little bit of information as to the increasing role these race specialists play in society and a little more information regarding the efforts by the President and his administration to, I would argue, encourage people to go down the transgender path.

Mr. Speaker, these are my comments for the week, things that I hope the press corps picks up on a little bit to educate the public.

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

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2154

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of Utah) at 9 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2670, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 2670) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of December 6, 2023, published in Book II.)

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-2485. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting Agreements Concerning Procedures for the Implementation of the United States Economic Assistance Provided in the 2023 Amended Compact Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Is-

lands, pursuant to 48 U.S.C. 1921(f); Public Law 108-188, Sec. 101(f); (117 Stat. 2725) (H. Doc. No. 118-87); jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Foreign Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

EC-2486. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting Agreements Concerning Procedures for the Implementation of the United States Economic Assistance Provided in the 2023 Amended Compact Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, pursuant to 48 U.S.C. 1921(f); Public Law 108-188, Sec. 101(f); (117 Stat. 2725) (H. Doc. No. 118-88); jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Foreign Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2839. A bill to amend the Siletz Reservation Act to address the hunting, fishing, trapping, and animal gathering rights of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-300). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama: Committee on Conference. Conference report on H.R. 2670. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-301). Ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. ISSA (for himself and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 6610. A bill to provide for the modernization of the passport issuance process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. TURNER (for himself and Mr. HIMES):

H.R. 6611. A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to make certain reforms to the authorities under such Act, to reauthorize title VII of such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BABIN (for himself, Mr. HERN, Mr. ROY, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. POSEY, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. CRANE, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. TIFFANY, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. HUNT, and Mr. OGLES):

H.R. 6612. A bill to amend section 301 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify those classes of individuals born in the United States who are nationals and citizens