

rounded up John Brown, who later became heavily involved in setting up Brown University, and another Rhode Island worthy named Abraham Whipple, who continued to have an interesting naval career.

Brown and Whipple and others went to Sabin's Tavern, and people beat drums in the street to get attention. People gathered, and a crowd assembled. After suitable refreshment, they filled in a number of long boats—five or six long boats. And that night, in the dark, with muffled oars, they rowed back down to the stranded *Gaspee*.

There they challenged Lieutenant Dudingston to surrender his vessel, and, when he refused, they rowed to the vessel and, from multiple sides, boarded it.

During the altercation, Lieutenant Dudingston was shot. I am pleased to report that he was not killed. He recovered from his wounds, retired, ultimately, from naval service, and went back to Scotland and raised many children. But the injury that he received, I believe, was actually the first blood spilled in what became the Revolutionary conflict between the Colonies and Great Britain.

So after they had seized the vessel, the Rhode Islanders bound up the crew and rowed them ashore. There is a pub right up the street, right now, from where they were rowed ashore, with a little monument you can see that recognizes the evening that they rode ashore, June 9, 1772. Then they went back out to the stranded *Gaspee* and set her afire.

Now, the *Gaspee* had cannons, and cannons use powder, and powder is kept in a magazine. So when the fire got to the powder magazine, this happened. The *Gaspee* was blown to smithereens, and that was the end of her predatory behavior in Rhode Island Sound and Narragansett Bay.

Now, by way of point of contrast, up in Massachusetts, more than a year later, a number of Massachusetts colonists went onboard a British ship, and they pushed tea bags off of the boat and into Boston Harbor, which, I am sure, was a very brave and wonderful thing to do. But from Rhode Island's perspective, we outsmarted the British, we got the boat stuck, we seized the boat, we captured the entire crew, and then we blew it up, more than a year before the tea bag incident in Boston Harbor. I think we are entitled to some credit for that.

But Massachusetts produced Adamses who became Presidents. They produced Harvard, which wrote histories. And the story of the Boston Tea Party is now known to—do you guys know the story? Yes, every page head nods. They know the Boston Tea Party story.

I don't know what Rhode Island has to do to get out of the shadow of the Boston Tea Party, but we blew the damn boat up and I think that is pretty good.

The final of the story is that King George was furious about this. He took

this as an enormous insult to his kingdom, to his crown, and to himself. And so he decreed that all of the insurgents who had rowed down in those boats were to be caught and were to be hanged. And a bounty was put for information leading to the identification of the Rhode Islanders who participated in the *Gaspee* raid.

I will say with some pride that no credible testimony ever emerged. The trials never took place. The nooses hung empty. And Rhode Island—against all of that pressure and with the allure of these bribes and bounties from the King—refused to give up their secrets. So it is a very strong story in many regards.

And we now have created a brandnew license plate. It is not out on cars yet, I don't believe. This one says "SAMPLE." But there is the Rhode Island license plate with the "*Gaspee* Days 1772" logo and the exploding *Gaspee* on it. I can't wait to get one and to drive it up to Massachusetts and park it near Boston Harbor and have some tea.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise today to bring attention to the issues that Americans are facing at home—the problems that I see and hear from my constituents in West Virginia, and I am sure the Presiding Officer hears many of the same in your home State. I want to raise the question as to why the Senate is not bringing some of the solutions to the floor.

As you know, I am a lifelong West Virginian. I care deeply about and understand the concern of our residents and the difficulties that our families are facing. Our families, our veterans, our small business owners, our manufacturers, law enforcement, and communities—they are struggling—what they are struggling with.

I was initially inspired to get involved in public service when I saw these local issues arising, and many of those I have tried to help face in my own home community of Charleston, WV. Later on, as the passion in me sort of grew, I decided to seek a bigger platform in the House of Representatives and, now, here in this esteemed body, the U.S. Senate. As public servants, it is our responsibility to not only put forth but to take action on issues that Americans are facing. We can do that to improve the lives of those we serve.

But it seems to me and it pains me that so many of the legislative solutions that we have come to work to craft—some of which are bipartisan—collect dust on the majority leader's

desk. In fact, that, to me, is very unacceptable.

Let's start with the issue that touches so many lives—the issue of addiction. Our country is in a deep and continued battle with an addiction crisis, something I raised multiple times on this Senate floor and something that I am committed to curbing and stopping. With the data available from the CDC—the latest report on drug overdose deaths—it is obvious that fentanyl, our clear and common enemy, is fueling the highest overdose rates we have seen for individuals between 25 and 44.

CDC provisional data released on May 17 also revealed that more than 100,000 Americans—100,000 Americans—died from drug overdoses in 2022, becoming the most deadly year on record. And some of those, I think—some of us in the Chamber tonight might know one or two people or at least families who are affected.

My colleagues and I have introduced legislation that will further coordinate efforts to disrupt the distribution of fentanyl, to block efforts to ship illicit drugs into the United States, and to improve law enforcement training to crack down on drug trafficking tactics.

In a crisis this deadly and urgent, time is of the essence, and these bills deserve the time to be considered. Yet, despite these alarming statistics and the commonsense solutions that we have put forward, the majority leader has refused to take any of these bills up on the Senate floor.

Regarding law enforcement, over the weekend we had one of the saddest things happen in our State of West Virginia. A West Virginia State trooper was tragically killed in the line of duty.

Our hearts are broken with the loss of Sergeant Cory Maynard. He was only 37 years old. He had a wife and two children. It is a very tragic, tragic story.

Our brave law enforcement officers defend communities across our States from crime and work incredibly hard to help keep our cities and towns safe. They are the first to answer the call. They continuously—continuously—show courage and heroism. There must be swift penalties in place for criminals who target our officers, and resources must be available to ensure their safety.

I joined several of my colleagues last month to introduce several pieces of legislation that support law enforcement officers and increase their safety. But I will say it again: The majority leader has yet to take up any of the legislation that we have offered.

Additionally, residents across my State and the entire country are still reeling with the elevated costs of all things—from housing, energy, food, and everyday essential items. And, as our economy continues to prove its weakness under President Biden, the hard-earned dollars of hard-working Americans do not stretch as far as they need to.

In May, the Institute for Supply Management's industrial PMI showed that our manufacturing sectors are shrinking. We hear all about that we have to make more here. Guess what. Our manufacturing sectors are shrinking. Extended pressure on manufacturing output and prices for goods has been caused by higher interest rates, increased cost of living, and complete economic uncertainty. And this further restricts our ability to make things in this country.

That is why I have introduced the American Investment in Manufacturing Act. It is a bill that would reinstate a much needed measure that allows industries affected by sustained high interest rates to grow, to increase jobs and wages, and to contribute to the U.S. economy. It is past time that this body stand with American manufacturing—our small business owners and the employers and employees that keep this great country running.

My colleagues and I continue to put forward solutions that invest in an “all of the above” energy plan: innovative ways to utilize everything from conventional, renewable, and nuclear energy sources to build back our energy independence; solutions that rein in government spending, that attack the true causes of fraud, waste, and abuse, that will saddle future generations with insurmountable debt; solutions that provide proper resources to our veterans, those who have served our country and put their life on the line for our freedom deserve our utmost respect and support.

What makes this all the more frustrating is that the Senate has proven our ability to legislate in a bipartisan way. We have done so on multiple fronts in recent memory on issues like infrastructure, American competitiveness, and just last week as we acted to raise the debt ceiling and avoid economic catastrophe.

There is no reason why this body should be hamstrung on addressing the biggest needs of our country and improving the lives of our residents in the areas where they need it the most.

I understand that floor time is a precious commodity, especially knowing that we have to take up action on several must-pass pieces of legislation. We have to pass 12 appropriations bills out of this body; we have to pass the farm bill; we have to pass FAA reauthorization; and perhaps, most significantly, a bill that under this Democratic leader has never gotten a fair amount of its time or consideration, the National Defense Authorization Act.

The American people want to see this place work for them. They want to see action on issues that impact them every single day. I encourage the majority leader to heed the concerns of our constituents and join in our efforts to provide the answers American families and communities are desperately looking for.

Until then, my Republican colleagues and I will continue to put forward the

answers that the American people deserve.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, the White House and the Department of Homeland Security released a press release yesterday to talk about what is happening on the border currently, especially on our southwest land border. I wanted to read just one line from the press release that was put out by Homeland Security yesterday, where they state in their press release:

The administration's plan is working as intended. [The administration's plan is working as intended.]

Now, what they were referencing was what is happening on the southwest border and the number of people who are crossing our border that are being “encountered” at the border. That is the new term from Homeland Security for the number of people who cross our border illegally. They are “encountered.”

In the past, those individuals—and what I mean “in the past,” I mean the past 2 years. Those individuals crossed our southern border and asked for asylum because they were told by the cartels what to say. The cartels would say to each individual as they crossed and paid the fee to the cartel: Tell them you are afraid in your country.

They would cross the border. They would say the words, “I am afraid in my country.” They would be given an asylum hearing date in the future. That date is anywhere—depending on where they go in the country—between 3 years and 7 years in the future. And they are told they can go anywhere in the United States they want to travel during that time period.

Now, that is what it used to be. The administration came forward and said: We have a whole new plan. Our new plan post-title 42—that is the end of the pandemic restrictions—our new plan is that we are going to tell people there is a rebuttable presumption that you don't qualify, so don't come.

So here is what has happened. Now you cross the border—and there are two ways you can cross the border. Now, this is the new plan: You can either fill out the paperwork before you come or, when you cross, we will fill out the paperwork for you.

If we fill out the paperwork for you, it will take longer for you to come into the country and cross the border or you can fill out the paperwork before. What is that called? It is called CBP One. It is an app that now you can download from anywhere in the world, fill out your paperwork ahead of time, and when you cross, they will quickly expedite you into the country for your asylum hearing anywhere between 3 and 7 years in the future or, if you cross between ports of entry, then it is going to take you probably another 8 hours or so for them to get all the paperwork filled out for you, and then you will

still be released into the country and have a hearing 3 to 7 years in the future.

What does the administration mean when they said the administration's plan is working as intended? They have now split up the numbers, and they have announced: Look, our numbers are less than 4,000 people now who are crossing the border illegally.

It was just 10,000 people 2 weeks ago. Of course, what they didn't say was the week before that, it was right at 5,000. But what they are not saying is they have actually taken—if you fill out on the app ahead of time, they don't count those numbers anymore.

Here is what has happened. We have the same number of people illegally crossing our border this week that we had 3 weeks ago and that we had 3 weeks before that.

The administration now has just split up the numbers, how they are counted. If you fill out the app in advance or we fill it out for you when you cross the border, those are now two separate sets at the border, but they are still the same exact people who are crossing into the country. Except when I was at the border just 2 weeks ago and asked how all of this is working, I asked a very simple question: What are you noticing that is different now than what was different before?

The response from CBP was: Well, it is the same. People are still moving in. They are allowed to be able to come into the country between ports of entry or at ports of entry, that is the same. But what has changed is a dramatic increase in the number of non-Spanish speakers who are coming.

And the first words that I had from several different individuals I spoke with, both from nongovernmental organizations and from our Federal law enforcement when I was there last, was that we are worried for our national security. In fact, Federal law enforcement used the exact term. We have military-age, single adult men coming into our country from non-Spanish-speaking nations in the Middle East, West Africa, Russia, and China now in much higher numbers than we had before.

Just to set the context of what is happening now while the administration is saying the plan is “working as intended,” here is what has happened: In the first 2 weeks of the end of title 42, we had 1,000 men from Mauritania, West Africa, come across our border—1,000. Exactly none of them do we have criminal background information on—none of them.

Let me just compare 2 years ago to this year. So far this year, and this year is not over—if I look at Mauritania, we had 90 people 2 years ago from Mauritania; so far this year, 4,300—so far this year. By the way, that doesn't include the May number that I was just saying. That is 1,000 more. So we are well in excess of 5,000 this year so far from Mauritania.

From Iran, it has gone from 62 to almost 300.