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No. 41

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GUEST).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
March 7, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL GUEST to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2024, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### CONGRATULATING SAMUEL HUNSBERGER

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Samuel Hunsberger of Licking Township, Pennsylvania. Samuel recently accepted a fully qualified appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Samuel is the son of Melissa and Larry Hunsberger, and he is the grand-

son of Jane Hunsberger and the late Ronald Hunsberger of Licking Township, Pennsylvania, the late Audrey Woodkirk of New Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and the late Burdette Woodkirk of Hazle Township, Pennsylvania.

As a student at Keystone Junior/Senior High School, Samuel is active in the classroom, on the athletic field, and on the stage. He is a member of the student government, a 3-year varsity football player, and a member of the marching band.

Outside of school, Samuel is a volunteer firefighter for Knox and Callensburg-Licking Township companies.

I congratulate Samuel for his commitment to service and wish him the very best of luck as he embarks on this exciting new phase of life at West Point.

### CONGRATULATING ERIC CLARK

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Eric Clark of Howard, Pennsylvania. Eric recently accepted a fully qualified appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Eric is the son of Amy and Benjamin Clark. He is the grandson of Uleta and Eric Clark of Warriors Mark, Pennsylvania, and Ann and William Welsh of Rixford, Pennsylvania.

Eric is a senior at Bald Eagle Area High School, where he has excelled in and out of the classroom. As a captain of the varsity football and wrestling teams, Eric is a strong leader. He also serves as senior class president and is a member of the National Honor Society. Eric has a clear passion for service and is a great example of what leadership looks like.

Best wishes in Annapolis, Eric. I look forward to seeing all that you achieve.

### CONGRATULATING JUDE STERLING

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jude Sterling of

Millmont, Pennsylvania. Jude accepted a fully qualified appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Jude is a senior at the Meadowbrook Christian School. He is the son of Jason and Ann Rishel and the grandson of Shirley O'Brien and Harry Vansickle of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, and Kathy and Carl Baskin of Sugar Hill, Georgia.

Jude is an active member of the Civil Air Patrol, where he has served in a variety of leadership positions. He is also a student pilot and a member of the cross-country and track and field teams. His commitment to service is an inspiration to us all.

I am confident that Jude's experience in and out of the classroom will serve him well as he looks forward to this exciting new phase of life.

Jude, thank you for your commitment to our Nation, and best of luck in Colorado Springs.

Mr. Speaker, it was an honor to nominate these young men. Their dedication to serving our country is inspirational, and I look forward to seeing their successes in the years to come. Again, I thank all of them for their commitment to our Nation.

### REWRITING HISTORY

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, a century ago, the philosopher George Santayana wrote that those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

Today, in America, we are faced with this very dilemma. We have seen attempts by the ultraconservatives to rewrite history and cater to those uncomfortable with an evolving world, uncomfortable with our country's original sin.

In these cases, it is no longer a matter of forgetfulness but a deliberate effort to ignore the past or alter it to

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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suit their own political gain. If we allow this altering to take hold, are we not doomed in our pursuit of a more perfect Union?

It is part of the overall goal of the former President and the MAGA movement. This movement rejects the idea that history is complex and, in the process, casts aside efforts to reckon with it.

Former President Trump and his followers prefer to simplify things for an audience afraid of a changing world. In so doing, Trump and his loyal followers refuse to accept the existence of complexities and contradictions in our shared story.

It is why Donald Trump so staunchly defended Robert E. Lee, not because Trump has a grasp on history but because Lee represents a vision of the past some would like to reclaim. They would rather paint a vision of our story unsullied by racism, suppression of women's rights, or violence against indigenous people.

Even the definition of patriotism has been corrupted. Patriotism isn't about ignoring the realities of our wrongs. It is about recognizing them and vowing never again, trying to make things better. This approach fails to coexist with the MAGA agenda.

We have seen others claim the "great replacement theory" is not a white supremacist conspiracy theory but a goal of the Democratic Party.

Sadly, this battle is also playing out prominently in our educational institutions. Governors in red States have implemented civic standards that whitewash history rather than providing students with a full understanding of our Nation's founding.

One prominent Governor defended his State's African-American history curriculum standards, which claim some enslaved people develop skills that "could be applied for their personal benefit."

Our Nation's messy history and our present flaws don't serve the MAGA goals and certainly don't empower them.

They would rather rewrite the past than change the future because if they accept the truth, that would be relinquishing power. After all, it is power and the desire to retain it that drives this movement. Donald Trump lying to his followers about the results of the 2020 election was about holding onto power.

To suggest enslaved people potentially benefit from slavery is about power. Even suggesting that it is immigrants who are "poisoning the blood of our Nation" is about power.

All of this stokes fear, division, and ultimately violence. It also suggests to our allies and adversaries that we cannot be accountable for our wrongs.

We must show that we stand with the truth, not denialism, that we don't accept lies about claiming the election was stolen, and that we don't accept lies suggesting that Black people benefited from slavery, recognizing that these lies have consequences.

Today, we are witnessing what the wrongful rewrite of history can lead to. Vladimir Putin continues to falsely claim Ukraine is part of Russia in an attempt to justify his war. We may feel as though something like this—the deliberate brainwashing of the public—could never happen here. Well, it can, and it is.

We cannot allow this revisionist history to continue spreading so maliciously and effectively, not only for how the world perceives us but for our pursuit of a more perfect Union. We must recognize the darkest sides of the past and teach our children that recognition is not a criticism. It is a lesson.

If we are to maintain a grip on reality in our history, we must start at the local level, especially in our schools. We must ensure our children are taught the truth about the past.

We must keep working to uphold the truth at all costs, regardless of how agreeable it is. This is not an affront to our history or our values. It is a promise to build a better tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward presumptive nominees for the Office of President.

#### WEAPONIZING CO<sub>2</sub>

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I am going to speak to you, once again, about our atmosphere, climate, and, most specifically, carbon dioxide, which has been weaponized in the argument around here, with government agencies against the people, as a tool, I think, to take more control of the economy and people's personal property.

Carbon dioxide, I will remind you, is 0.04 percent of the entire pie of our atmosphere; oxygen, 21 percent; nitrogen, 78 percent; trace gases other than that, 0.03. Argon is much bigger in our atmosphere than CO<sub>2</sub>. Yet, you would think, with the CO<sub>2</sub> numbers creeping up slowly, it is the end of the world.

Everything around here has to be run through a CO<sub>2</sub> filter, a climate change filter, and it is much to the detriment of our economy and the U.S. position in the world.

Most recently, the Securities and Exchange Commission has adopted rules on their own to decide that people are going to have to start disclosing their climate impact of how they operate their businesses. You are going to have to start accounting for your CO<sub>2</sub> production and report that to a Federal entity.

This is pretty much going to mean everybody if they are connected to a certain size of business and what have you. Small suppliers to larger corporations that are caught in the snare of this will have to account for that.

For food production, let's say you have ingredients that are placed into a larger recipe for food products that you could buy from maybe a larger conglomerate. There are also individual small growers—say, a carrot farmer, a bean farmer. He is now going to have to disclose his CO<sub>2</sub> production on his farm because he might be selling to a larger entity that is caught in the snare of the SEC.

Where does this all end? How much time does an individual like that have to chase around and figure out what his CO<sub>2</sub> impact is going to be, especially since it is only 0.04 percent of our atmosphere?

There is much debate about what amount of the CO<sub>2</sub> is caused by human activity. Some want to say, oh, it is 50 percent. Others believe it is very small, a tiny percentage, like maybe 3 percent.

There are those that want to say, well, the science is settled, merely because they want to move on and take control over so many aspects of our economy.

What are some of the issues that we have seen grow out of that? We have what is known as ESG, environmental, social, and governance.

The country of Sri Lanka, just a few short years ago, decided to adopt and try to meet these ESG goals, much to the great harm of their economy. It almost collapsed good portions of their economy because they went whole hog as a whole country on that to try to adopt ESG goals.

On the environmental side of the E, they forced farmers to completely convert to organic materials for their fertilizer and whatever pesticide products they were able to use organically. What immediately happened? Rice yields in the country dropped 20 percent. The price of rice went up 50 percent for consumers.

We saw that that blew a great big hole in the ag economy in that small country. Their country had to come in and start doing bailouts, basically, to help keep those farmers afloat until they finally got their senses and abandoned a lot of those ESG goals.

They are also an important tea exporter, which caused their exports to fall. They lost hundreds of millions of dollars on that as well.

Their economy collapsed by trying to meet some arbitrary ESG goal brought on by outsiders that really have this idealistic, elite whim of what people should be doing instead of what actually works.

I run this all by you here because the Biden administration has been causing this kind of harm on our own economy in this country. The focus of every agency seems to be climate, climate, climate all the time because of a tiny increase in CO<sub>2</sub>.

CO<sub>2</sub> is a rounding error in the overall atmospheric chart here, and the increase of that is minute. How much can we blame on human activity versus what might be happening with other naturally occurring issues?