

on the other side of the aisle serve as hypocrites and fund the pensions of government workers in Ukraine. It is not for nothing, but it wasn't that long ago that we found a person connected to the defense industrial complex in Ukraine exiting the country with a million dollars in U.S. cash in a shoebox.

The corruption is real. America's interests are illusory, and we should never drain \$200 million out of our Army that should go to military families, that should go to soldiers, and that should go to America's capabilities. It is America's capabilities that will define whether or not we hold the high ground, not which guy in a tracksuit is running Crimea.

BIDEN WEAKNESS ON THE WORLD STAGE

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, there are real concerns throughout our Nation about the violence in our streets. There has been a failed social experiment on the part of the left that has resulted in high levels of crime.

Leftwing officials, Mr. Speaker, have defunded and discredited police forces across the country, as well as appointed liberal prosecutors who are not prosecuting.

The facts don't lie. Here in Washington, D.C., the city has cut \$100 million from the Metro PD's \$600 million budget since 2017, and the prosecution rate of arrests in the Nation's Capital has been around 30 percent in recent years. Whereas a short time ago, it was upwards, near 70 percent. Therefore, it should be no surprise that violent crime is soaring in Washington, D.C.

Carjackings, for instance, were up more than 100 percent from last year, which was at an all-time high. Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, they are all the same. Crime has gotten so out of hand in New York City, the Governor just deployed 1,000 National Guardsmen to help secure the subway system.

However, it is not just in the cities. Radical ideology has expanded into the suburban communities, and crime has come along with it. Just this week, I met with members of the Fraternal Order of Police. They shared with me their concerns about the rising antipolice sentiment and detailed the skyrocketing violence against law enforcement officers.

Last year, Mr. Speaker, tragically, 378 police officers were shot in the line of duty, 46 of whom were killed, and this was up from 323 officers shot in 2022. It is disgraceful.

One piece of legislation to address these issues is my Holding Prosecutors Accountable Act, which has been endorsed by the National Police Association. It would force ideological prosecutors to do their jobs by mandating

they prosecute at least 67 percent of violent crimes. If they don't, their jurisdiction will lose access to Federal DOJ grant funding.

It would also require prosecutors' offices that serve highly populated jurisdictions to publish their prosecution rate data. Americans deserve to know if their elected prosecutor is deliberately releasing violent criminals back onto the streets.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, this ideological social experiment starts at the top. Joe Biden and Vice President HARRIS have not shown support for law enforcement. It is that simple. Just look at their criticism of the border agents that were on horseback, who they accused of whipping migrants, despite knowing that that was categorically false.

These border agents were doing their jobs. There was no whipping that took place, and when the truth finally came out, there was no apology from the White House. Also, when Vice President HARRIS had the opportunity to disavow the defund the police movement during an interview on "The View," she refused to answer, showing an utter lack of support for the brave men and women who protect and serve our communities.

This is, Mr. Speaker, in stark contrast from the former President, who would speak strongly in favor of police officers and backing the blue. President Trump sent a clear pro law enforcement message, but now, under President Biden, we are dealing with rampant smash-and-grab situations, crimes, migrant crime due to our open borders, out-of-control violence in our streets, and gangs riding around on dirt bikes victimizing innocent citizens and small businesses.

We have a serious issue before us that has been created over the last 3 years. Therefore, as a society and as elected officials, we need to come together to correct course, or the American people must elect those that will make national security and public safety job one.

Mr. Speaker, under the past Trump administration, there was no invasion of Ukraine, there was peace in the Middle East, and there was less tension between China and Taiwan. As well, the terrorist state of Iran was defunded because of the strict sanctions on their oil exports.

However, today, Biden's weaknesses on the world stage have plunged the world into chaos. We are now dealing with the horrific invasion by Putin into Ukraine. The Middle East went from peace to chaos, with hostage taking, massive slaughters, and death. Additionally, many parts of our neighboring country, Mexico, have turned into gangland due to the border policies from this administration.

Further, our relationship with China is one of disrespect, not respect.

Plus, Iran is now enormously well funded and responsible for the bulk of terrorism that exists worldwide, from

Hezbollah to the Houthis to Hamas. Despite this, we have an administration that has an irrational affinity for gaining some sort of deal or agreement with the terrorist state of Iran.

In addition, perhaps what is worse, Mr. Speaker, there is no plan to take corrective action. Once again, it is just more of the same, and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are asking the American taxpayer to fund the results of the Biden administration's disastrous geopolitical policies.

As former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo put it, this is an America that is on its back foot. Our friends don't trust us, and our adversaries insufficiently fear us.

Mr. Speaker, I could not agree with him more.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 6 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BERGMAN) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

God of all creation, bend Your ear toward the Earth and hear the cries of Your people imprisoned by their adversaries, stolen from their lives and loved ones, and held captive by hatred.

There are countless men, women, and children across the globe who are victims of heartless cruelty, but on this day, we lift up those who remain held hostage in Gaza after 5 months, especially our own countrymen: Edan Alexander, Itai Chen, Sagui Dekel-Chen, Omer Neutra, Hersch Goldberg-Polin, and Keith Siegel.

Ever-present one, we pray the Acheinu with their loved ones and their communities, asking that You have mercy upon them and bring them out of their suffering to relief, from darkness to light, from subjugation to redemption, now, speedily, and soon.

And may the righteous memory of those who have died at the hand of their captors, be a powerful testimony to remember, that in atonement all the ends of the Earth will turn to You, O Lord, and bow before You.

O Lord, be not far from us. You are our strength and the deliverer of all those who endure the interminable wait for the return of these our brothers.

In Your merciful name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ALFORD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill and agreed to without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 7454. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 93. Concurrent Resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 992) "An Act to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to designate the Texas and New Mexico portions of the future Interstate-designated segments of the Port-to-Plains Corridor as Interstate Route 27, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 64, adopted March 5, 2013, the Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, appoints the following Senators as members of the Senate National Security Working Group for the 118th Congress:

The Senator from Texas (Mr. Cornyn) (Administrative Co-Chair).

The Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. Fischer) (Co-Chair).

The Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. Lankford) (Co-Chair).

The Senator from Florida (Mr. Rubio).

The Senator from South Carolina (Mr. Graham).

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. Wicker).

The Senator from Idaho (Mr. Risch).

The Senator from Utah (Mr. Romney).

The Senator from Nebraska (Mr. Ricketts).

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING PENNSYLVANIA 4-H MEMBERS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pennsylvania 4-H members who received the Diamond Clover Award at the recent 4-H State Leadership Conference.

4-H is a youth development program under the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The program's main goal is to educate our Nation's youth on pivotal skills and responsibilities to develop them into outstanding citizens.

As chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, I am enlightened to see the work of USDA's programs paying the way for youth.

In total, there were 24 Diamond Clover Award winners from 13 counties across Pennsylvania. I am especially proud to say that out of those 13 counties, 3 of them are from my district, Pennsylvania 15.

Special congratulations to Hannah Trigg from Centre County, Phaedra Bower from Clinton County, and Crystal Clark from Potter Country.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate all of them on their hard work and this recognition. I wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

U.S. MUST USE ITS LEVERAGE TO GET HUMANITARIAN AID INTO GAZA

(Mr. McGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, we cannot ignore the suffering happening in Gaza. Children are dying of malnutrition. There is no food, no clean water, no medicine, and over 2 million people are starving in desperate need of help.

The October 7 attack by Hamas against innocent Israeli civilians and the taking of hostages are horrific crimes, but I am horrified by Prime Minister Netanyahu's response. His government's actions against civilians in Gaza are intolerable and wrong.

U.S. law says no aid shall be furnished under the Foreign Assistance Act or the Arms Export Control Act to any country that: "... restricts, directly or indirectly, the transport or delivery of United States humanitarian assistance."

Mr. Speaker, I would say to President Biden that if the Netanyahu government continues to keep humanitarian aid from entering Gaza at the scale required to meet the needs of the people of Gaza, then you must, Mr. President, use the full leverage of U.S. law to get the trucks rolling again. The lives of millions are counting on you.

BIDEN'S DISASTROUS BORDER POLICY

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, President Biden is going to be in this Chamber in just a few hours. I am going to hope for a positive outcome on this in that up to this point the border policy that he and his administration have put in place has been disastrous.

Of late, he has been blaming Republicans for that, for not passing a really bad idea that has come out of the Senate. Well, we have taken responsibility. We passed H.R. 2 very early in this session and sent it over to the Senate where Mr. SCHUMER has ignored it.

I hope the President will call on Mr. SCHUMER and the Democratic Senators to take that bill up over there and have the really strong reform on border strengthening that we need.

If they don't, there are still eight actions right here the President could be doing: end catch and release, reinstate remain in Mexico, and six other ideas that actually were in place when President Trump was in charge that he rescinded on day one.

He could do this with the stroke of a pen, without Congress having to fight over a partisan deal about how to figure this out with legislation.

President Biden could do this. I hope that tonight instead of blaming Republicans, he will take action and use his pen to put these constitutional pieces back in place.

CELEBRATING BRIDGESTONE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Bridgestone, one of the largest industrial employers in Wilson County, North Carolina, is celebrating 50 years.

The facility manufactures passenger and light-truck tires. There are 1,900 employees at this site. The facility is rated number one globally in 19-inch tire production. It has received several certifications and awards, including the Rising Star in the North Carolina Department of Labor's Carolina Star Program and the International Sustainability and Carbon Certification PLUS.

Eastern North Carolina is most grateful to each of the hardworking team members at this essential facility.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Bridgestone on a job well done in reaching this remarkable milestone. I wish them a happy 50th anniversary.

ALL LIFE IS PRECIOUS

(Mrs. STEEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)