

Not a single American servicemember has been deployed to Ukraine, but there are American servicemembers in nearby NATO countries who will be in harm's way should Putin continue his illegal and expressed desire to put NATO on the warpath.

Americans should not need a history lesson about what happens to our way of life when Europe falls to the chaos of war, but, clearly, some of my colleagues do.

So what on Earth are we doing here?

We are called to D.C. for vote after vote on bill after bill that stand no chance of passing in the Senate when we should be using this valuable time doing our job and passing Ukraine aid.

If Ukraine aid were brought up today for a vote, it would pass. It would pass the House, supported by scores and scores of Republicans and Democrats alike, like the ones who have called Putin a war criminal. It also has already passed the Senate, and President Biden would sign it into law tomorrow.

I love this country. I have served this country in uniform. It is the greatest honor of my lifetime to serve my country and my community in Congress. It is because of this love for the same country that took my father and my grandmother as Holocaust refugees that I stand here today and express my deep and profound anger at the positively undemocratic way in which Speaker JOHNSON is withholding our vote on Ukraine.

The *deja vu* of giving these remarks is literally nauseating. I am apoplectic. It is 1939 again, and this is not an exaggeration. It is about our standing as a nation. It is about a lasting peace in a democratic world order.

In 24 hours this House will adjourn yet again, and if Democrats held the gavel, there would be no further delay. I will say that again: If Democrats held the gavel, then Ukraine would have the support they needed.

I do not want to be right. I really don't want Ukraine to fall. I just want to be able to vote on Ukraine and defeat Putin. I demand a vote.

□ 1030

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND FOOD SECURITY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, many Americans are wondering: Why are food prices so high? What causes this? Why, even on occasions in the land of plenty, do we see food shortages of certain types on our shelves?

It really boils down to several factors. Energy independence is one of them. Food security and energy independence go hand-in-hand.

It is certainly time for President Biden and his administration to take action to renew our economic vitality. Instead of supporting our farmers and

ensuring a stable food supply, it appears agriculture and the industry itself have been turned into a partisan issue, leaving farmers to fend for themselves in a really hostile regulatory environment.

As we navigate these challenges facing our ag sector, it is crucial to recognize the far-reaching implications of the Biden administration's anti-American energy policy. The push to have everything convert to electric vehicles, whether it is our cars, pickups, tractors, trucks, let alone our appliances at home, is going to be, indeed, very costly and probably not even possible with the energy grid we currently have, especially with anti-energy policies.

They really play heck trying to get a new power plant sited, even a nuclear power plant. In my district right now, they are tearing down hydroelectric dams, which is clean, reliable, CO₂-free power.

If that is not enough, what we are looking at is, on the other side of the scale for farmers trying to provide food, water is not allocated, especially in my home State, that is due them for their water rights. We had almost record rain and snowpack last year, and it is pretty good this year. Yet, there are areas in the San Joaquin Valley that are only going to receive 15 percent of their normal allocated water rights.

Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleagues that my home State of California grows all of these crops here, somewhere between 100 percent or a little less, that the U.S. relies on. Otherwise, these would be imported crops. So many of them come from my home State of California, yet we can't get the water supply, even though we could store it. We are watching so much of it be washed out to the ocean through the delta for no good reason.

The Army Corps of Engineers uses 50-year-old manuals to decide how much water they should keep in their reservoirs up to that point where they stop their conservation mode for flood control. I get it. Flood control is needed, but we have 500,000 acre-feet of space still left in Lake Oroville, 600,000 acre-feet of space left in Shasta Lake, and it is not coming up fast enough to meet an April 1 mark, let alone get full by May or June.

What does that mean? Several hundred thousand acre-feet of water probably left on the table that aren't going to grow these crops right here—and people are wondering why their food is expensive.

Energy policy is driving up the cost of diesel. It doubled fuel for me and my farm and everybody else a couple of years ago, and it tripled the cost of fertilizer for farmers across the country, all because of bad energy policy.

When my colleagues on the other side of the aisle shut down pipelines, shut down exploration, shut down the ability to make our own energy in this country and have to rely on importing it from, a lot of times, adversarial

countries, what do citizens expect is going to happen to the cost of anything since everything is so energy dependent and energy based in our economy?

Indeed, if we are going to grow this food in California or in our own country, we are going to have a much more secure situation with our food supply and stability across the board. As we know, food security is national security, so Americans feel the cost of high energy, high food costs, high just about everything, and a lot of this has happened in the last 3 years. We had a lot more stability under the previous administration.

COVID was weaponized to try to shut down a lot of our country, a lot of our economy, and make people stay at home. Indeed, that had an effect we are still feeling. Even our kids in school are feeling that still because of an overbearing COVID policy that has also added trillions to our national debt.

What are we going to do? Are we going to have an energy policy that makes sense, or do we want to rely on China for imported food and other products and the Middle East for imported oil?

I personally think we are going to get a heck of a lot better product growing these crops in California or elsewhere in the United States than by relying upon others to send it to us because, when the chips are down, America is always there for other people, but they aren't necessarily going to be there for us if we have our own crisis.

We are the last bastion. We are the last beacon many times in the world. We have to hold our leaders accountable for an energy policy and putting our food policy up front as well. We need to pass a farm bill soon.

RECOGNIZING AMY GOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EZELL). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I love recognizing our community mothers in Detroit.

Amy Good founded Alternatives for Girls, a nationally recognized organization serving at-risk youth women in southeast Michigan. For the past 37 years, Amy Good has led Alternatives for Girls with integrity and commitment to the organization's mission to ensure a better quality of life and future for girls and young women who have survived homelessness, violence, and trauma.

With their support, many young girls can go on to succeed in school, graduate, and become leaders in our communities by providing shelter, housing, mentorship programs, skills training, and much more.

With Amy's partnership, I am so proud to announce that our office was able to secure \$1.1 million for the Alternatives for Girls to construct the Dr. Maya Angelou Village that will create 45 units of affordable, integrated

permanent supportive housing for at-risk families.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Amy Good for her outstanding service to our residents in southeast Michigan as we wish her well in her next endeavor.

MOTHER PARKS FEDERAL BUILDING

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, Congress passed legislation to celebrate the mother of the civil rights movement and a beloved resident of our community, Mother Rosa Parks.

I thank Senator DEBBIE STABENOW, the McCauley Parks family, and everyone who supported this legislation. It was a privilege to lead this effort in the House to rename our Federal building downtown at 985 Michigan Avenue in Detroit the Rosa Parks Federal Building.

We honor Mother Rosa Parks today and every day for her bravery and unwavering commitment to justice. The Montgomery bus boycott showed the world the power of nonviolent resistance and collective action. Her strength resonated to millions across our Nation, inspiring a wave of protests, boycotts, and marches. Her protest challenged the status quo and paved the way for the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to outlaw racial segregation in our Nation.

As we reflect on Rosa Parks' legacy, let us not only remember her incredible courage but also recognize the work that still lies before us. Let us honor her memory by continuing to challenge inequality, by speaking out against injustice, and by standing up for what is right, even in the face of adversity.

STARVATION IN GAZA

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, over 1.5 million Palestinians are now displaced in Rafah without food, clean water, or medicine.

More than 13,000 children have already been killed by the Israeli Government. Another child is killed in Gaza every 15 minutes.

Many have witnessed family members literally dismembered before their eyes. They have witnessed their loved ones buried under the rubble while they were holding each other.

The trauma has led to children as young as 5, Mr. Speaker, saying that they would prefer to die.

Additionally, as if the threat from the bullets and bombs wasn't enough, Palestinians are now dying of starvation across Gaza. At least 27 children and 3 adults have already starved to death. They have been forced to eat grass and animal feed just to survive.

Let's be clear, this isn't a tragic accident. What we are witnessing, all of us across this world, is the Israeli Government using starvation as a weapon of war. The starvation is a result of the total siege on Gaza and the intentional targeting of local food production, infrastructure, and obstruction of aid convoys.

Recently, at least 112 Palestinians were killed after Israeli Government

forces opened fire on hundreds waiting to collect flour. The Israeli Government has been intentionally starving the Palestinian people, families. These are some of the most horrific crimes against humanity committed in this century. To target starving people seeking food is beyond belief.

Now, my colleagues are pushing legislation to send more American tax dollars to the apartheid government of Israel and stop funding UNRWA, the major organization that provides desperately needed food and humanitarian assistance to starving Palestinians.

Now, Members here, all of them, are going to be contributing to the starvation of Palestinian families.

This is Yazan. He was only 10 years old when he died due to severe malnutrition and lack of proper healthcare caused by the siege and blockade in Gaza. His family, originally from the north, was displaced several times and wanted to make it to Rafah in hopes of finding food and medicine for Yazan, who needed it to survive, but there was nothing they could do to help him.

This has to stop. What has happened to our shared humanity? Palestinians deserve to live. Palestinian children aren't disposable. They deserve to grow old.

Netanyahu has said he will move forward with an invasion of Rafah with or without a temporary cease-fire. He said it.

Let's be clear, though. A temporary cease-fire is not enough. There is nothing humanitarian about feeding starving children for 6 weeks before the bombing and killing resumes. A lasting, permanent cease-fire is what we need.

CONGRATULATING MARANA JUNIOR LEAGUE SOFTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Marana Junior Little League Softball team that made it to the Little League Junior Softball World Series quarterfinals. This team is the only team from Marana Little League Baseball and Softball to advance to a world series.

It was not an easy road for the team during the West Regional Junior League Tournament. They had to win five consecutive elimination games, and their final game was delayed for over 2 hours. Yet, they still came home with the win, and during the Junior League Softball World Series, the Marana Junior League Softball team made it all the way to the quarterfinals.

The team is coached by Head Coach Sam Mills, Coach Jason Angell, and Coach Chris Beck.

The 12 extraordinary players are Addison Angell, Addison Lee, Adelaide Bradshaw, Aubrianna Gray, Bella Brooks-Rojel, Bella Sayre, Brooke Beck, Cadence Beck, Emma Winter,

Kyla Layton, Malia Mills, and Mariah Moreno.

These young girls have a bright future ahead of them, and I am excited to see what the future holds for all of them.

Way to represent Marana and Arizona in the World Series, and congratulations.

CONGRATULATING COACH MISTY OPAT

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Misty Opat, the women's basketball coach at Cochise College, who recently achieved her 300th career win.

Misty has over two decades of collegiate coaching experience and is in her fourth year at Cochise College. Last week, under Misty's coaching, the women's basketball team clinched their seat in the NJCAA National Tournament.

Misty recently said she would rather impact 300 lives than get 300 wins, but I think it is safe to say that she has done both.

I congratulate Misty and the Apaches, the Cochise College Women's Basketball team. They have made Cochise County and southern Arizona very proud.

HONORING MICA MOUNTAIN'S KIM FARR

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kim Farr, a teacher of Mica Mountain High School and the Arizona Athletics 2023-2024 High School Teacher of the Year.

Kim Farr has been a teacher for over 17 years. Throughout her career, she has taught science classes of all levels, from biology to AP research.

Outside of the classroom, you can find Mrs. Farr coaching swimming and traveling the world with students in Costa Rica, Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands, and Belize.

I congratulate all the nominees from southern Arizona: Mark Calton from Marana High School, Jordan Castle from CDO High School, Abigail Francis from Mountain View High School, Bridget Montoya from Flowing Wells High School, Tiffany Newton from Andrada Polytechnic High School, Cristina Parks from Cienega High School, Shawn Smith from Amphi High School, and Michelle Tozer from Empire High School.

I am grateful for all the teachers and everything they do. I am proud to represent them in Congress, and I thank them for the work that they do for our next generation.

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INSTABILITY IN AFRICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, the time for dawdling, procrastinating, and pointless disputes has long expired.

This body has become consumed with self-serving ambition and such a manufactured divide that we have forgotten