

First of all, that is opposed to merit. I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, if our military is ever not number one, then we will have big problems in this country. Be that as it may, apparently, President Biden's first pick for head of the joint chiefs, thinks the most important thing is to put people in silos and say: Now we have to promote the Native American; now we have to promote the Hispanic American—whatever—and we aren't just going to promote the best people. That, by itself, is a problem.

Secondly, it is divisive. There is a reason why the hard left likes this DEI. The Marxists have not been able to take down America because we have such a strong and prosperous middle class. We love being Americans.

Marxists like to believe that they can destroy countries by setting the middle class against the rich and create a conflict or a civil war-type situation and destroy that country.

They realize now that they can't do it. The American middle class is too strong. Their religious beliefs are so strong. That is not the way they can take down America from within.

So they are coming to plan B. Plan B is that we are going to divide Americans by race, and we are going to say that because we have divided it by race, then we have achieved greater diversity, and with diversity comes a better corporation, a better college, what have you.

It bothers me the press never calls them out on how this diversity is supposed to make things better.

I suppose, normally, when you think of diversity, Mr. Speaker, you think of people who have had different life experiences. Maybe they had different majors. Maybe they had different jobs. Maybe if you are talking about the military, it would be somebody who was in the Navy and somebody who was in the Air Force where you had genuine different viewpoints on things.

However, the theory here they are talking about is racial differences.

Now, given that for the purpose of this sort of thing, you self-identify, and as we have more intermarriage in the United States which just by itself is a sign of nonprejudice, you are going to have some people who might be say one-half Mexican, one-half Cuban, one-half Jamaican, and one-half Korean.

Apparently, the people in favor of this feel that, therefore, they are going to bring different gifts or different viewpoints to the table. They should be challenged on that by the media.

If we have two kids who go to Silver Spring High School here, and one is one-quarter Mexican and one is one-quarter Korean and one is one-quarter Vietnamese, and they all live on the same block, and they all were on the same basketball team, and they all hung around with the same friends and went to the same church, then I challenge the advocates for this diversity stuff to tell me how these kids are going to have such a different view of the world.

Tell me especially how for a job of Navy fighter pilot, Army Corps of Engineers, how are they going to add something different because of where their grandmother was born, a grandmother maybe they never met, maybe they never spoke to?

Maybe they never even spoke Vietnamese, they never spoke Spanish, or they never even saw these countries, but we now have an ideology here in which people are supposed to bring something to the table because their grandmother or grandfather came from such and such a country.

It is ridiculous on its face.

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Nevertheless, we have to put up with this praising of diversity as somehow bringing something to the table. It is not just the military, of course. It is Big Business, Big Education, and whatever. The people should be challenged on that.

The only reason you could possibly say it results in diversity is if you really are a racist and believe you have different gifts or talents genetically because you are one-quarter Cuban or one-quarter Nigerian or what have you. It is something that we ought to criticize. It is something we ought to get rid of.

By the way, one of the things we learned in the committee is that, right now, the military will pay people up to \$190,000 a year to be experts on diversity.

Do we want more diversity experts in this country? The cost is bad, but just as bad as the cost is that these people, to justify their existence, are going to run around and try to inflame people and sic people one against the other.

On our American seal, it says, "E Pluribus Unum," "out of many, one." We are supposed to take people from all around the globe who come here and now view themselves as equals and together with each other.

Not surprisingly, the Marxist people who like DEI in the military and other places view it as the opposite. They want to take people who are happy, well-adjusted Americans and say: You should be unhappy. You should not view yourself as an American. You should view yourself as a Cuban American. You should view yourself as a Burmese American. America is prejudiced against you. You should walk around with a chip on your shoulder and ask for something because your ancestors came from Burma or because your ancestors came from Brazil.

Clearly, the Marxists want to do this because this is a way to destroy America, to set people against each other. This is a way to say every promotion, every hiring, every government contract is a contest between groups, and in every election, we should vote for the party that does the most to look out for our group.

Mr. Speaker, I beg the President to rescind his drive toward DEI bureaucrats running the Pentagon.

I wish we would do something about the current head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who has just brazenly said he is going to discriminate against White people when it comes to promotions, and get back to the wonderful America that we had 20 or 30 years ago.

Examples of this DEI occur not only in the military but in other governmental agencies in the world. My hope is that as our negotiators negotiate the budget for the calendar year, October 30, all of these DEI bureaucrats are kicked out of the American Government and we get back to where we are Americans first and foremost and back to a time when merit determines who is promoted.

Mr. Speaker, those are three issues I hope the press would pick up on, and I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. JEFFRIES) for today on account of a family matter.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 49 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-2919. A letter from the Director, Regulations Management Division, Rural Development Innovation Center, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) Regulation: Tribes and Tribal Business References To Provide Equitable Access [Docket: RBS-23-BUSINESS-0006] (RIN: 0570-AB10) received January 3, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-2920. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Mississippi: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference [EPA-R04-UST-2023-0410; FRL-11400-02-R4] received January 4, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2921. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Kentucky; Revisions to Jefferson County Emissions Monitoring and Reporting [EPA-R04-OAR-2023-0097; FRL-11564-04-R4] received January 4, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2922. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations; Consistency Update for Maryland [EPA-R03-OAR-2022-0776; FRL-10292-02-R3] received January 4, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2923. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — State of Louisiana Underground Injection Control Program; Class VI Primacy [EPA-HQ-OW-2023-0073; FRL 9916-02-OW] received January 4, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2924. A letter from the Chief, Division of Regulations, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Commercial Visitor Services; Concession Contracts [NPS-WASO-36913; PPWOBSADC0; PPMVSCSIY.Y00000] (RIN: 1024-AE57) received January 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-2925. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustment received January 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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:

Ms. FOX: Committee on Education and the Workforce. H.R. 6914. A bill to require institutions of higher education to disseminate information on the rights of, and accommodations and resources for, pregnant students, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-344). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. JORDAN: Committee on the Judiciary. Resolution Recommending that the House of Representatives find Robert Hunter Biden in Contempt of Congress for Refusal to Comply with a Subpoena Duly Issued by the Committee on the Judiciary (Rept. 118-345). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. COMER: Committee on Oversight and Accountability. Resolution Recommending that the House of Representatives find Robert Hunter Biden in Contempt of Congress for Refusal to Comply with a Subpoena Duly Issued by the Committee on Oversight and Accountability (Rept. 118-346). Referred to the House Calendar.

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. ARRINGTON (for himself, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. ISSA, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 6986. A bill to address patent thickets; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 6987. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to strengthen student

visa background checks and improve the monitoring of foreign students in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. D'ESPOSITO (for himself, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CARSON, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LAWLER, and Ms. SANCHEZ):

H.R. 6988. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen the enforcement of certain court ordered property distributions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia:

H.R. 6989. A bill to amend an Act of Congress approved June 8, 1940, with respect to emergency permits for rights-of-way, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LAHOOD:

H.R. 6990. A bill to modify the bases for ineligibility for countries to benefit from the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LATURNER (for himself, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. ESTES, and Mr. MANN):

H.R. 6991. A bill to designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kansas, as the "Captain Elwin Shoptheese VA Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself and Mr. BUCSHON):

H.R. 6992. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a list of essential medicines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PALMER:

H.R. 6993. A bill to allow individuals to choose to opt out of the Medicare part A benefit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BROWN (for herself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AMO, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CARSON, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. IVEY, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. MFUME, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. NEUGE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mrs. SYKES, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TRONE, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. MENG, and Mr. SABLÁN):

H. Res. 962. A resolution honoring Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by Celebrating Diversity, Promoting Tolerance, and Condemning Hate; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOMEZ (for himself, Mrs. KIM of California, Ms. CHU, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mrs. STEEL, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. BEYER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. LIEU, Mr. EVANS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. ROSS, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. NADLER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mrs. WATSON

COLEMAN, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. COHEN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. PELTOLA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. CASE, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. TONKO, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. SABLÁN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. BERA, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. PETERS, Ms. MENG, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TRONE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. PORTER, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PANETTA, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. FROST, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. ISSA, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Ms. STANSBURY):

H. Res. 963. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Korean American Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. OGLES (for himself, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mrs. LUNA):

H. Res. 964. A resolution providing the sense of the House of Representatives that the House should not adjourn until the annual appropriation bills within the jurisdiction of all the subcommittees of the Committee on Appropriations for the current fiscal year are enacted into law; to the Committee on Appropriations.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 6986.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Reducing patent thickets.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 6987.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

A bill that would increase security screenings for student visa applications and increase security and transparency compliance for institutions or exchange visitor programs participating in the Student and Exchange Visitor Program.

By Mr. D'ESPOSITO:

H.R. 6988.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen the enforcement of certain court ordered property distributions.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia:

H.R. 6989.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII