

Mr. Speaker, my thoughts are with the families of those who perished working on the bridge. My thoughts are with the people of Baltimore and Maryland.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 3½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I want to do a couple of things here. Number one, I thank Speaker JOHNSON for the conversation that we had shortly after this bridge collapsed and for his full understanding of the impact on the Nation and why this is so very important that we, again, allow commerce to flow through that port.

I thank ROSA DELAURO, ranking member on the Appropriations Committee, and HAKEEM JEFFRIES, our minority leader, for their understanding on this issue, particularly Leader JEFFRIES, who went above and beyond a commitment personally to try to get this thing done and to make sure that we did it together.

I would be remiss if I did not thank TOM COLE, the new chair of the Appropriations Committee, who spoke with me just 2 days after this happened and who understands completely the economic impact that this poses for our Nation as well as to Members on both sides of the aisle as we try to find a way to make sure that we move forward.

Mr. Speaker, let me be redundant and underscore the fact that this is one of the Nation's top ports. It is the largest estuary that it sits over, meaning the Chesapeake Bay and the Patapsco River, but the port itself is a significant contributor to our economy, and it is the number one port in terms of roll-on and roll-off of new automobiles. It is a great exporter of titanium, sugar, coal, and a number of other imports, as well as exports.

I will also say it has been a pleasure working with our Governor; Mayor Brandon Scott of Baltimore; County Executive Johnnie O of Baltimore County; Bill Ferguson, the president of the senate in Maryland; and Adrienne Jones, the speaker of the house, who have pushed through emergency legislation to help us to assist all of the dock workers and small businesses that are affected and helping us to move toward some sort of resolution of this issue.

I began my remarks by saying that we must not ever forget the human souls, the lives lost that day. Again, as we think about this well into the future, I hope that all of us remember that this was a bridge, but this was more than just a bridge. It became a graveyard also.

So because of the suffering that these families have endured, I would ask everyone all over the Nation to join us in understanding that this is not a partisan issue, that we must find a way together to get through this, that we must protect our Nation's supply

chains and all of the risk that it poses for consumers in our society, and we can do it together.

There will be a process to determine the funding mechanisms and the funding ratios. That will all be a part of some of what the Appropriations Committee will do, I am sure, but more than anything else, this becomes a milestone. I hope that we look at it as a problem that occurred that was solved by the work, potential, and input of everybody who cared, no matter where, in fact, they were or are.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BARRAGAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Baltimore for today's special hour.

On March 26 in the early hours of the morning, I remember watching in horror as a cargo ship ran into and collapsed the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore.

As we all assess what happened, how we will rebuild and what the impact of its collapse will have on trade and ports like mine in Los Angeles, let us stop and take a moment to recognize the lives lost that night.

As we watched in horror, we did not know that 185 feet above the river on that bridge in the dark of night that there was a construction crew bravely working to fix potholes so the 30,000 motorists who crossed the bridge each day could do so safely.

Six members of the construction crew died or are presumed dead.

We have come to learn something that is of no surprise to me, they were immigrants who came to America for a better life, for an opportunity to provide for their family—much like my own parents.

Today we stand in solemn remembrance of them. In their honor, we not only mourn their loss but celebrate the invaluable contributions that immigrants like them make to the American economy and society.

Let us first remember, Maynor Suaza Sandoval, a father of two from Honduras. He came to the U.S. when he was 18 years old. He was an entrepreneur who came to the United States and worked three jobs to provide a better life for his family. He was described by family as "a joyful person" and "a generous man" who sent money to his hometown soccer team in Honduras. He also contributed to his community by working with the nonprofit immigrant organization, CASA. He is survived by his wife, and two children, ages 5 and 18.

Jose Mynor Lopez, also left behind his homeland in Guatemala to seek a better life in America. He worked hard to provide for his family and was a wonderful husband to his wife, Isabel, and a caring father and stepfather to his four children.

Miguel Luna, from El Salvador, was a proud immigrant and father of six, who worked in his spare time with CASA to help other immigrants from Central America create a better life for their families in the United States.

Dorlian Castillo Cabrera moved here from Guatemala to support his mother, Marlon. He loved his job and worked hard to give his mom a comfortable life in America.

Alejandro Hernandez Fuentes, a father of four from Mexico, was working to help his sister join his family here in the United States.

And finally, we remember Carlos Hernandez, a 24-year-old construction worker

from Mexico, who is the nephew of Alejandro Hernandez Fuentes. He died with his uncle on that bridge.

Minutes before the bridge collapse, Carlos left a voicemail for his girlfriend, Jasmine saying, "yes, my love, we just poured the cement and we're just waiting for it to dry." His shift was almost over, and he was looking forward to heading home to see her. They had planned to get married in a few months and start a family.

These men came to this country in pursuit of a better life and to support their families.

They made a critical contribution to maintain our Nation's infrastructure.

Their loss underscores the risky jobs Latinos and immigrants endure to build and maintain our infrastructure, produce food, and keep our country running.

Latinos and immigrants are often demonized for political purposes. It is wrong.

As Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, we will continue to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform that prioritizes the safety, dignity, and rights of all immigrants, regardless of their status.

As we reflect on the lives of Jose, Miguel, Maynor, Dorlian, Alejandro, and Carlos, let us also recognize the countless other immigrants who, like them, contribute immeasurably to the fabric of our Nation. From the fields to the factories, from the construction sites to the corner stores, immigrants are the backbone of the American economy.

Let us honor the memory of those who lost their lives in the bridge collapse by committing ourselves to building a nation where all people, regardless of their background, can pursue their dreams and achieve their full potential.

We say to those lost: "May you Rest in Peace." "Decansen en Paz."

ADVANCING IMPORTANT MEASURES ON THE FLOOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEDGER

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of the Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are advancing important measures on the floor this week. We continue to work hard for our constituents and the American people.

We continue to push the Biden administration to address the ongoing crisis at the border and increase our domestic energy production capabilities.

We are standing by Israel and denouncing President Biden's efforts for a one-sided pressure on Israel with respect to Gaza. This is a Hamas-led

travesty, and we need to make sure that we continue to have and focus on the evils that Hamas terrorists have created and the turmoil that they have created in that region.

There is a lot to get to. I appreciate many of my colleagues for being willing to share some thoughts today.

Mr. Speaker, I will yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time and the opportunity to expound upon very important topics that we face across the board, whether it is today's legislation, or ongoing discussions.

Mr. Speaker, I want to touch a little bit this afternoon on the situation with Secretary Mayorkas and the Biden administration, who are willfully and systematically ignoring our Nation's laws, which are diminishing our national security. Of course, I am talking about the border situation. How the President and the administration continue to get away with ignoring the sieve that our border is, the hundreds of thousands coming across.

My colleagues could put the number at over 7 million over the full time, over 3 years. It is probably hard to really estimate what it is, the people coming into this country. Under the terminology, let's say migrants, or even in some cases by the administration, newcomers.

Why these euphemisms? People are breaking and entering into this country illegally and undermining its security, undermining our systems of services, et cetera.

Early on in this session, House Republicans passed the bill known as H.R. 2, which is one of the strongest border security packages ever in the history of the House. H.R. 2 holds the administration accountable for this colossal failure we see every day in Eagle Pass, all along Texas, all along Arizona, New Mexico, and California.

What is the outcome from Secretary Mayorkas? Well, the House, in its wisdom, decided to move forward with an impeachment. Now, that hasn't been delivered to the Senate yet. I think timing is everything, and the Speaker, in his wisdom, decided a little more time was needed before those documents are delivered and the Senate is looking at taking it up.

Hopefully, they will. Hopefully, Leader SCHUMER doesn't just try and brush it under the rug. There are serious charges here, and the track record of the Secretary and the whole Biden administration on this certainly bears the discussion, certainly bears the information that has come out and will continue to come out in an impeachment process.

Therefore, as well, whatever happens with that impeachment, whatever the timeline is, we still have H.R. 2 sitting over in the Senate waiting for action as well. Again, in order to tighten up our own border and properly handle the laws we already have on the books, we don't need a lot of new legislation. We

just need it defined better, it looks like, on what asylum really means, on the policies that had been in place before that were working reasonably well.

However, under Mayorkas' leadership, we would have over 9 million illegal immigrant encounters nationwide, 7.4 million encounters at our southern border, and then 1.8 million known as got-aways that have gotten away from our Border Patrol. Those are the ones that we know about.

Immigration judges have thrown out approximately 200,000 cases because the DHS did not properly file the required notice-to-appear paperwork by the time of the scheduled hearing.

Did they purposely blow that at DHS so that they could say 200,000 of them didn't have the proper paperwork to appear and that those are now permanent getaways? It is a pretty wild coincidence for 200,000.

In my personal opinion, on top of that, do they have the same rights on this type of legal question, where the timeline expired and they didn't get the right paperwork? They are still illegally in this country. Again, they are not migrants. They are illegal aliens that have broken into this country.

The Biden administration's far-left open-border policies are what is to blame for this historic crisis. There are over 60 instances of the Biden administration taking actions that have undermined our Nation's security, including halting the construction of the border wall.

That is what I said, 60 different actions. Was it just to unwind what Trump did because he doesn't like Trump?

I had a recent visit south of the Tucson area near a place called Naco, Arizona. My colleagues can still see what looked like probably a mile in either direction of the metal material there that was being used at the time to construct the border fence. There were piles and piles of giant girders of steel there, and I could look at it up close. I could show pictures where it is marked on there, October 2020. The date of it is still marked there on the material laying there.

President Biden, about 1½ years ago, made some mention: Well, maybe we will start putting that back up and fill in some of the gaps.

On a different trip to Arizona, closer to a dam, all these different gaps were seen. There were miles of fence, but there were gaps in it.

□ 1545

The people coming in since they are being welcomed by our government can just find any one of the gaps in the fence and be picked up. Actually, we are sending vans to go pick them up so we can get them processed sooner and cut them loose with the idea that they might come back within 2 years or whenever the court date would be except that DHS screwed up the date and lost 200,000 of them because they didn't give the required notice to appear.

In the meantime, we are trying to hustle them into the country as fast as possible through the actions of Biden's directives with border personnel.

They announced on May 10 of last year that it would allow for some release of migrants in the U.S. with no way to actually track them.

The Department of Homeland Security has now admitted that 40 percent of catch and release migrants have just disappeared into the country.

The Senate must hold the trial for Secretary Mayorkas' impeachment because he needs to be held accountable. You can't just ignore our laws like that and make a joke out of it. This is, again, our security. Fentanyl is coming in. We have people coming in that will be part of known terror cells. The people they have caught and turned away are from very questionable, very dangerous associations.

This is no joke. This is not just shouting in the wilderness. This is very real, and how this administration continues to get away with it blows my mind and a lot of the minds of the American people out there.

How can this be happening? Lately, President Biden is talk about, well, does he have the authority to make a move on further enforcing the border? It is an executive action. The laws are on the books. We have legislated on that. We have put forward funding on that. The President in his action is to execute and to enforce the laws that are on the books.

If we would execute and enforce them properly to the fullest extent we could, as a country, we wouldn't have nearly the problem that we are seeing right now.

In the meantime, we legislate here. H.R. 2 is sitting over in the Senate. I urge the Senators to take that up and move in the direction that will further define and tighten our laws so we will have a much more secure border.

With that, I suggest that the American people call your United States Senators and have them move H.R. 2.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California and I always appreciate his participation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS).

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I am going to talk a little about Bidenomics. It is interesting the President doesn't talk about Bidenomics anymore. He thought about a year ago it would be a neat thing to talk about, but I guess the problem is that reality struck.

Just over a month ago, President Biden stood right in front of where you stand now, Mr. Speaker, in this very Chamber to give his State of the Union Address. He declared: "Our economy is the envy of the world."

Well, just today, the Consumer Price Index, a key inflation index, came in

“hotter than expected.” By the way, that is not good news for Americans. It actually increased to 3½ percent. The past few years, it has been higher than it has been in 40 years.

As we all pay more for almost everything in Joe Biden's economy, let's take a really close look at the economy that Joe Biden built.

Well, when Joe Biden took office, the national debt was \$28.7 trillion, a huge amount of debt, but now it is approaching \$35 trillion, or more than \$250,000 of debt for every American household. Now, in my district, that debt is higher than the average mortgage in my district.

For the average family, the mortgage is the least of their debt worries now. Now, it is the Federal debt.

The CBO projects that by 2031, \$2 trillion deficits will be the norm, but I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that as usual the CBO gets this wrong because this year it is going to be way over \$2 trillion. In fact, over the last calendar year, from last April to the beginning of this April, the Federal debt has increased over \$3 trillion under Joe Biden's watch.

Joe Biden's new spending initiatives, just the new spending initiatives in the budget he just proposed, adds up to a price tag of 5.5 trillion more dollars over the next 10 years, and that is just new spending.

That doesn't count the ongoing growth of existing Federal programs that he projects in his budget.

Together, all this new spending is going to drive up Federal deficits to 10 percent of GDP, a level we have only seen in the modern era during the national emergencies of COVID and World War II.

Now, since Joe Biden took office, inflation has risen to historic levels and make no mistake, Bidenflation is a direct result of Joe Biden and the Democrats' out-of-control government spending.

Just a couple of days ago, Jamie Dimon, the CEO of JPMorgan Chase, no friend of this side of the aisle, warned in a letter to his shareholders that interest rates could rise to 8 percent or higher. He also mentions drivers of persistent inflation being military conflict throughout the world and fiscal deficits.

Let me tell you something, the Biden administration are absolute champions of military conflicts throughout the world and fiscal deficits. The bottom line is, we all know that under the last administration there were no hot wars. The Middle East actually was becoming more peaceful, not less peaceful. The Russians were not advancing in Ukraine.

All that changed with this administration and the resulting military spending that is going to be necessary worldwide will drive inflation even higher.

That is not my word; that is the word, again, of the CEO of JPMorgan Chase, a person who understands how this economy works.

Now, President Biden's economy is affecting Americans of every age and we all know it. In fact, according to a recent survey, one in eight retirees now plan to return to work this year because they simply can't afford retirement anymore. Inflation has driven up the cost of everything—groceries, gasoline, housing, rent, everything.

In a recent study, The Wall Street Journal showed that a \$100 grocery list from 2019—and for those of you keeping score, that was during the last administration—now costs \$137. Anybody who is watching us to day who goes to the grocery store, Mr. Speaker, knows this is true. They know what a loaf of bread costs. They know what a dozen eggs costs. They know what a gallon of milk costs. When they go down the aisles, they know everything is more expensive under Joe Biden's watch.

If Joe Biden thinks the economy he built is “such an envy,” maybe he ought to take a walk through a grocery store.

Within the first 2 years of this administration, Joe Biden and the House Democrats passed their so-called American Rescue Plan—I don't think we feel too rescued, to be honest with you—and the so-called Inflation Reduction Act, which is the real laugh because everybody knows inflation isn't reduced from where it was in the last administration. Both of those sent Federal Government spending sky-high, again, what Jamie Dimon warns us is going to lead to a prolonged inflationary period and high interest rates.

Lastly, I will talk about energy prices because when you go to the gas pump, if you go to buy diesel to put in your farm tractor or truck, you know what it costs now. It costs about 50 percent more than it did under the last administration.

Energy prices, your electric bill, your heating bill, everything is going sky-high because of this President's policies.

Make no mistake, Joe Biden's out-of-control spending, his spending agenda, and his economic policies have made life simply unaffordable for American families.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I will bring up another anecdote. When you hear voices like President Obama's economic adviser, Larry Summers, talk about the fact that there is one equation when you enact that much government spending like what happened in President Biden's first 2 years, there is only one outcome when you enact that much spending with no offsets. The American Rescue Plan, Inflation Reduction Act, like you mentioned, that type of relief spending is unnecessary and immediately creates inflation. That is what we have experienced.

House Republicans oftentimes don't get the credit that we deserve for taking back the majority and putting an end to all of that additional spending that was enacted so quickly as soon as the Democrats had the White House,

House, and Senate. They do those bills under reconciliation, they don't require the filibuster anymore, and they passed over \$3 trillion that way on party-line vote.

Just by taking back the majority, we have the opportunity to completely eliminate that and also work to find other areas of waste and push that as much as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. HARRIS for that message. Sometimes the details and data are inconvenient when you are trying to push a narrative about an economy, but it is good to make sure to highlight that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY), a good colleague and friend.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank our Conference vice chair for holding this Special Order hour and helping us and helping us get our message out there for the American people.

Today, I rise to bring attention to the fact that Americans have been held hostage in Gaza for 186 days. American citizens currently sit behind enemy lines held hostage in Gaza.

The world changed on October 7 when Hamas launched a barbaric attack, a blood-thirsty rampage on the peace-loving people of Israel and they claimed the lives of over 1,000 innocent civilians, including 32 American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, 250 hostages were taken, with five American citizens still believed to be alive and fighting for their survival in Gaza. Last week, I had the honor to travel to Israel and while in Jerusalem, I, with my colleagues, met with the Goldberg-Polin family, Rachel and Jon Goldberg-Polin, whose son, Hersh, an American citizen, was taken hostage at the Nova Music Festival, where 379 beautiful young peoples' lives were stolen.

They brought into focus that we have little to no information on the health and the welfare of the hostages. International organizations cannot get that data.

The last video of Hersh from that day showed him applying his own tourniquet as his left arm had been blown off by a grenade. Their family has shown such courage and grace in telling the world about their son and his story and the story of the hostages currently held.

There have been many other families just like theirs whose loved ones have been ripped away from them and they still do not have answers. We must do everything in our power to secure the release of these Americans, including standing strong with Israel in their fight against Hamas.

The fact that 6 months have gone by since the attack, we cannot forget that American citizens are still being held hostage by Hamas. Not for 1 day, not for 1 minute.

It is time for strength and unity, not weakness or division. President Biden should be calling for their release every single day. Israel needs America

in its time of peril. The bond between our two nations is unbreakable. I will continue to work tirelessly in this Congress to defend Israel's right to exist and right to defend itself.

Israel needs to defend itself no matter what the cost against these people that committed these crimes and atrocities. We must stand together in the face of evil and send a clear message that America will not tolerate the murder and the capture of our citizens and innocent citizens across the globe. We need to demonstrate our unwavering commitment to peace and freedom in the world.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate his passion and I echo his comments.

Mr. Speaker, as I wrap up, I thank my colleagues for sharing their heartfelt messages. I appreciate them putting the time and effort into making sure their constituents and the American people know some of the most important things that are going on back here. I appreciate their time to be down here.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD), a good friend.

□ 1600

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as my colleague NICK LANGWORTHY did before me, to express my support for the State of Israel in its war for survival, basically, against the terrorist Hamas group.

We need to make one thing perfectly clear in this body: We stand with Israel, no matter what.

As Mr. LANGWORTHY just said, 16 Congressmen and -women just returned from Israel. Many of their spouses went, as well. This was a trip to gain insight, to gain context and perspective, to be educated about the plight of Israel and what they are facing in this war with these brutal savages, the Hamas terrorists.

What we saw, Mr. Speaker, was horrible. We went to a kibbutz in the southern part of Israel. It was one of our first stops. This was a village. Basically, a kibbutz is a community or a gathering of people. It was a beautiful village at one time.

We went there, and it was frozen in time. Tricycles were left out on the sidewalk area. Clothes were pulled halfway out of the dryer. Food was still on the table of some of these homes. Other homes were almost burned to the ground. Glass was shattered. Lives were shattered, as well.

We saw that moment frozen in time, 6:32 on the morning of October 7. The folks who had woken up that morning thought it was just going to be another normal day in the kibbutz, a day to share with family, to go to school, to work in their crops. They were just within a stone's throw of Gaza. Little did they know that that day was going to be a day that lived in infamy for Israel because, you see, the Hamas terrorists broke down the fence and the

gates into that kibbutz, kidnapped more than 40 people from that kibbutz, killed more than 200, brutally murdering women who were pregnant, ripping the babies out of their wombs, burning others alive. We were able to see firsthand the devastation and destruction left by these brutal terrorists.

Israel is a nation of resolve, and we saw that, as well. We saw that in kibbutzim further north up on the border with Lebanon, where 654 people, an entire kibbutz, had to be evacuated because they were not safe because of the rockets from Hezbollah.

Hezbollah is being funded by Iran. This is a proxy war by people who don't want Israel to exist, who want to wipe it off the face of the Earth.

The sanction money that this President has released, some \$16 billion that has gone to Iran, has been used to buy rockets and missiles for Hezbollah.

Saturday morning, we left a hotel in that kibbutz area to make our way further north and to the west, near the Lebanese border. Mr. Speaker, 52 minutes after we left this hotel, Hezbollah fired 30 rockets on that hotel that we stayed in. The Iron Dome stopped 29 of those, but one of them hit near the hotel. It didn't do any damage, but 16 Members of Congress and their families were there just an hour prior to that.

It is very clear that this is not just a war between Islamic terrorists and Israel. This is a war between civilizations. This is a war, a battle between good and evil, and that is why it is imperative that we stand with Israel.

Imagine, Mr. Speaker, your home. Maybe you have lived there for a couple of decades. Imagine if you lived there 80 years, and the neighbor to your right, the neighbor to your left, the neighbor across the street, and the neighbor behind you never wanted you there. All they could think about is driving you out of that house. If it meant killing you and your family to do that, so be it. That is what the State of Israel is facing.

We met with the Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and with the President of Israel, President Herzog. Let me assure you today, despite the media reports, Mr. Speaker, despite what others in this body may be saying, the will of Israel is strong to finish off the four battalions that remain in Rafah of these terrorist killers and, just as importantly, to bring home safely the 133 hostages, some of whom are Americans.

Unfortunately, just today, Mr. Speaker, a report was released that the Hamas terrorists may have delivered some 40 of these hostages to other terrorist nations or terrorist entities, and they may not even be in Gaza. Israel needs to know if these people are alive. They deserve to know proof of life.

A lot of people are calling for a cease-fire. Israel, the IDF, has Hamas on the ropes. It is time to finish the job. It is time to eradicate Hamas. It is time to bring the hostages home. It is time for peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, I want to close with this, because this is nothing new to Israel, ever since they crossed the Jordan River. Some 2,600 years ago, a prominent Levite songwriter in King David's court penned these words. It still rings true today, Mr. Speaker.

O God, do not remain quiet;
Do not be silent and, O God, do not be still.
For, behold, Thine enemies make an uproar;
And those who hate Thee have exalted themselves.

They make shrewd plans against Thy people,
And conspire together against Thy treasured ones.

They have said, "Come, and let us wipe them out as a nation.

That the name of Israel be remembered no more."

For they have conspired together with one mind;

Against Thee do they make a covenant . . .
Who say, "Let us possess for ourselves
The pastures of God."

God, fill their faces with dishonor,
That they may seek Thy name, O Lord.

Let them be ashamed and dismayed forever;
And let them be humiliated and perish.

That they may know that Thou alone, whose name is the Lord,
Art the most high over all the Earth.

Today, it is Israel. Tomorrow, it could be America. The jihadists, the Islamic extremists, the terrorists call Israel the Little Satan. They call the United States of America the Great Satan.

We stand with Israel, and even if this administration is trying to pry open a crack in our relationship, this body should not let that stand and make it very clear that Israel is our friend, our ally, and we will stand behind them and beside them.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this is all over very soon because this could be over today if Hamas would release the hostages and simply surrender. When that does happen, we will rejoice with Israel, but, Mr. Speaker, until that does happen, we weep with Israel.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri. I can't add any more to that but will quickly highlight a point that I think needs constant reminding: The Abraham Accords were some of the strongest, most positive potential opportunities for peace in the Middle East by creating trade relationships with Israel and Arab nations. These are unprecedented. These are some of the most important things that I think happened in all the foreign policy from our previous administration.

Saudi Arabia was inching toward engaging in these types of trade relationships. Iran doesn't want that to happen. Iran supports Hezbollah. Iran supports Hamas. Hamas does this attack. The whole intent was to make sure that the narrative and public perception would change on Israel because it was inching too close to productivity with a bellwether like Saudi Arabia being willing to potentially embrace trade negotiations and diplomatic relationships with Israel. Iran does not want that to happen. They will do whatever they can to incite violence

and terrorism. They know that Israel will go and protect themselves. They know that Israel will respond. They know if they wait long enough, that even the President of the United States, who has traditionally been a very strong supporter of Israel, will start to put pressure on Israel as if October 7 was their fault.

We cannot forget that narrative. We cannot forget that Iran is rejoicing and exuberant that this one-sided pressure is put on Israel at this moment. I think that point is so important to make.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleagues for sharing so much of their thoughts on various elements of the economy and other foreign policy issues.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

STANDING SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah for hosting a forum here on the floor for our colleagues to be able to talk about the important issues with respect to Bidenomics, such as you can even use that term as anything other than creating and inflicting pain on the American people through a big spending, highly regulatory inflationary environment that is killing the average hardworking American family. That is the truth.

My colleague from Utah brought a number of our other colleagues down to make that point very clearly, in addition to making the point that I have come to the floor of the House to underscore and reiterate. That is the importance of the United States of America standing side by side, shoulder to shoulder, with our friend, Israel.

We are not. That is the plain and simple truth. We are not standing side by side with Israel at a time when she most needs it.

Three days ago was April 7. That marked the 6-month timeframe since the brutal attacks of October 7. October 7 in Israel has become much like we describe September 11.

As we know, through both what is publicly available and those things that we have seen privately in terms of the information available, the videos that we have seen, the horrific slaughter of human beings in Israel, Hamas slaughtered children, raped women, burned whole families alive, and took hundreds of innocent civilians hostage. An estimated 1,200 Israelis were killed on October 7. Those numbers are still numbers that we are trying to track down.

An estimated 130 hostages of the initial estimate of 250 are still believed to be held in Gaza. To be very clear, that includes Americans. Americans are

right now being held hostage by Hamas in Gaza. Ninety-one Israelis are dual citizens, and eight Thai nationals, one Nepali, one French-Mexican, but six Americans.

Instead of unequivocally backing Israel and the fight against Hamas, a United States-designated terrorist group, I want to be very clear, the Biden administration has been undermining Israel every step of the way.

Last November, on the floor of this body, the people's House, the Representatives of this body passed, on a bipartisan basis, funding for Israel. We did so immediately. It is something I am proud of. I am not shy to criticize Members of both sides of the aisle for the shortcomings of the people's House, but we came together on a bipartisan basis, and we passed, I think it was, about \$17 billion in funding for our friends in Israel just over a month after the vicious attacks against them.

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That bill would have funded their needs, shown that we would stand next to Israel, and importantly, it was paid for. It was paid for out of the expansion of the Internal Revenue Service, which most recently was found by the IRS' own inspector general to have 63 percent of the audits that were added are for people who make less than \$200,000.

Mr. Speaker, 63 percent of the audits were for people who make less than \$200,000. By the way, that is what we said would happen, if you expand the power of the IRS the average American, the average hardworking family, would get targeted by the bureaucrats at the IRS.

However, our Democratic colleagues and the President of the United States—a Democrat, radical progressive Democrats—are choosing the Internal Revenue Service, are choosing to target you, the hardworking American family, are choosing to side with Hamas over Israel. That is what is happening.

So instead of America standing up together united and standing right alongside Israel, our Democratic colleagues and the administration and in this body and in the Senate give lip service to standing with them, and instead, are trying to undermine them.

Again, I want to be very clear. Republicans in the House passed off of this floor with Democrat votes legislation that would fund Israel that was paid for—so we are no longer just spending money into oblivion—by taking away some of the increased expansion of the IRS that the IRS' own inspector general has acknowledged and reports as being used to target hardworking, middle-class families.

That is the truth. That is the distinction.

But it goes a lot further than that.

The Biden administration is trying to tie the hands of Israel. They are taking active steps to undermine Israel. President Biden told reporters that Israel's military operations in Gaza

were “over the top” and the bombing was “indiscriminate.”

President Biden told protestors: “. . . I've been quietly working with the Israeli Government to get them to reduce and significantly get out of Gaza. I've been using all that I can to do that.” That is the President of the United States.

On March 25, just a couple weeks ago, President Biden's representatives at the United Nations green-lighted, by abstaining instead of voting—by abstaining instead of voting—on a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for an immediate cease-fire without any connection to the release of hostages.

Can you imagine the leadership of our country where they could have a veto exercise in the United Nations Security Council, they chose not to exercise that, abstained, walked away, refused to stand up, and in essence, turned their back fully, not just on the nation of Israel but on every Jewish American who knows family and friends, and has their heritage connected to the great State of Israel. This President and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle turned their backs on Israel. That is the truth. There is no debate on that truth. It is literally what happened.

Now, by the way, the administration is all too happy to continue to throw billions of dollars to the United Nations. This is when I give a little wake-up call to my colleagues on this side of the aisle for continuing to fund a government at war with our people and at war with our values by giving more funding for the United Nations.

It is this administration that is throwing money at the United Nations—I think this last bill we moved was \$3.5 billion. Let's keep in mind that the United Nations General Assembly, the paragon of virtue, has passed 153 resolutions condemning Israel. They have passed zero on China, zero on Cuba, zero on Türkiye. I can keep going down the list, but they have passed 153 resolutions condemning Israel.

Anybody with eyes can see what is happening. The prime minister of Israel, Prime Minister Netanyahu was correct when he said: “Just as the United States would not agree to a cease-fire after the bombing of Pearl Harbor or after the terrorist attack of 9/11, Israel will not agree to a cessation of hostilities with Hamas after the horrific attacks of October 7.”

Every Member of Congress, the President of the United States, every Member of the Senate, we should be standing up shoulder to shoulder backing Prime Minister Netanyahu, backing Israel with their unequivocal right to defend themselves, their unequivocal right to root out Hamas from the hostile forces that have been attacking them and to not allow the international community to gaslight the world into saying that Israel is slaughtering civilians, because it is simply not true.