

the Grammy, and in 2011, he received an Emmy nomination.

Just last year, he was named 2023 Detroit Jazz Hero by the Jazz Journalists Association.

But strip away all the titles, all the awards, and Whitaker is simply a man who understands the power of the gift that he has been given and the necessity to pass it on. In his own words, Dr. Rodney Whitaker said: That is my truth. I love passing on the knowledge of the history of music, and it is life-changing to see that lightbulb go off in someone. It certainly changed my life.

For all the lives he has enriched, changed, and set to music, I ask that his contributions forever live here in the permanent RECORD of the United States House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to shine a light on the incredible accomplishments of another member of the Michigan State University jazz community: Associate professor of jazz piano, Xavier Davis.

It was 1994 and Xavier Davis, then a college student from Grand Rapids, Michigan, was performing with a small ensemble at a convention in Boston when his tunes caught the ear of the legendary jazz vocalist Betty Carter, a native of Flint, Michigan. Carter scooped him up and brought him to New York, hiring him to work exclusively as a pianist for her jazz trio.

Davis spent many years in New York, cultivating his talent, learning from and playing with some of the greatest names in jazz, including: Carl Allen, James Williams, Billy Hart, Regina Carter, and Wynton Marsalis. He served as musical director for the Boys Choir of Harlem during its 1999–2000 season, he played keyboard for the television series “The Cosby Show,” and has been featured on more than 50 albums, including a Grammy-winning collaboration with Christian McBride in 2012.

We are so fortunate that after 6 years of teaching at the famed Juilliard School in New York, Davis brought his talents back home and has been teaching jazz piano at Michigan State University since 2014.

In addition to the many students who have benefited from his instruction, Davis has also dedicated himself to uplifting his own hometown of Detroit through his music.

Supported by a grant from Michigan State University’s Humanities and Art Research program, Davis began composing music about Detroit, which eventually became a powerful album titled “Rise Up Detroit.”

Through his music, Davis focused on the role Detroit has played in the lives of African Americans and in the world at large, highlighting the Underground Railroad, the Great Migration, and the boom days of the auto industry.

Professor Davis is a gifted composer, arranger, and producer of music, and widely recognized as one of the most accomplished jazz pianists in the world. He is also a proud Michigander,

continually giving back to the community and the State that put the music in his soul. While he is a recording artist, it is my distinct pleasure to record his accomplishments and convey my gratitude for his contributions here in the permanent RECORD of the people’s House.

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

OUR GREATEST EXISTENTIAL THREAT RIGHT NOW IS THE BORDER PROBLEM

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, indeed, I spoke a little earlier about how we seem to have hopped from self-made crisis to self-made crisis in this Chamber, in this Capitol, in this town, whether it is by legislative action, executive action, or bureaucratic action, but what the American people are suffering from most is government caused.

It really isn’t a condition of weather or nature or even so much our adversaries around the world—and those are all factors and they all can be factors—but they pale compared to crises that are, indeed, caused by the actions of the government in Washington, D.C., in my home State, and so many of them right there in Sacramento.

We are talking energy. We are talking fiscal. We are talking a business climate that is hampered by unreasonable regulations. We are talking about things as simple as women and girls’ sports. Why should that be complicated? Yet it is.

And the one that is probably the most difficult and the greatest existential threat right now to our country immediately is the border problem. This porous border has been made that way pretty much since day two of the Biden administration. It certainly wasn’t perfect before that, but my hat’s off to President Trump in his term for trying as much as he can to do something about it, by building the wall, continuing to build the wall, repair old sections of the wall. He met resistance just about every step of the way.

Indeed that infrastructure makes it so much easier and simpler for our border personnel to be able to track who is coming across the border and basically funnel them to the areas where border entry can be properly processed with a plan in place, with rules in place, with laws in place that would make that expedient and actually beneficial to our country, and also less harmful to those that would wish to come here, to immigrate here, to seek jobs, to seek citizenship, what have you.

In an orderly society, we need to have control of the border and invite people to come be part of what this country has to offer. That is what immigration used to be many decades ago. It slipped away from us.

We hear all day long, oh, the immigration system is broken. Well, it is broken because it is not being enforced. Now, we could add to the laws that we have in the books there and refine them, such as the interpretation of asylum which is wide open these days. Asylum used to be more reserved for people that were being subject to abuse by a regime in the country they lived in. They would be subject to much persecution, religious persecution, political persecution, what have you.

We understand that. We saw that in World War II and pre-World War II in Europe with what happened to the Jews there. The United States didn’t act quickly enough in that situation, but at least we understand what asylum should look like. What we have now is basically people presenting themselves at the border, if they are not just sneaking right past, and saying a few magic words to the personnel and then they are taken into custody temporarily, given a number and maybe even a fictitious name, and allowed to move on through.

I have been to that border. I have witnessed what that looks like. Indeed, we have buses going back and forth patrolling the border not to keep the border closed or enforced, but picking people up so they can sooner get them to processing centers. We are paying for that. It is like a giant welcome wagon that has been turned into such by this Biden administration.

Now President Trump, as I said, tried really hard to get a handle on this, and improvements were made with several hundred miles of new, strong border fence and repaired old fence. Also, the border personnel felt like we appreciated them. We appreciated their jobs. We appreciated the effort they are making.

Nowadays, I think they are just completely overwhelmed, and I can’t imagine the morale is very good when they are basically told that they are to be part of running the welcome wagon and just letting people in. We hear anecdotes about them welding the gates open where they are, actually in Texas. Are you kidding me?

The State of Texas through their own National Guard has been making efforts to control parts of their border there, putting up wire and other measures that will help control some distance on their border.

□ 1300

You have the Biden administration threatening them and bringing lawsuits against them, and who knows, maybe even a confrontation with Federal troops versus Texas National Guard at some point in order for the Federal Government to be tearing down the barrier in order to preserve our border and have some semblance of order instead of the chaos that has been introduced and exacerbated by the Biden administration.

How does this make a lick of sense to anybody, to tear down the barrier that,

indeed, the Federal Government should have built up to begin with?

Now, let's talk about the barrier itself a little bit. We are not a country that is going to completely close it off. We welcome legal immigration. I shouldn't have to say that. It has always been who we are. Legal immigration, one that goes through process, one that our own people, our own government decides how many people we want to have enter under the different programs, under the different categories, how many should we have this year apply for citizenship.

That number is way up from what it was five, six decades ago where I believe the stats are somewhere around 800,000 or 900,000 new legal immigrants, new citizens per year as I think I have it, whereas the number might have been around 200,000 back 50 or 60 years ago. It is a dramatic increase of us welcoming legal citizens over that time.

Others that would apply for work permits, education visas, travel visas, different categories. All we ask is that you follow a set of rules. Go through a process. That is not unreasonable.

I always liken it to when you leave your home, most likely you probably lock your doors on your house. Maybe you even set an alarm. Maybe you have a fence around your house, your property. Is it because you hate your neighbors, because you hate somebody else that might come by? No, it is because it is your security, it is your responsibility.

There are people who are going to be led into temptation. Look how many packages get stolen off front porches because the deliverer just leaves it there. I guess that is the agreement. That is rampant these days. What if that door was unlocked? The same people who are bold enough to steal packages off your front porch wouldn't have any hesitation to go inside and clean you out at well.

Look what they are doing to retail stores while clerks and employees helplessly watch them cart off phones and watches and whatever other merchandise they can get while their corporate edict is don't dare talk to them, don't follow them with a camera, don't get their license plate. Heaven knows you wouldn't want to try to detain them in any way, as we see more and more of the corporate world become spineless in controlling the chaos.

We see this affecting mostly our very large cities, which politically tend to be the blue cities, Democrat-controlled mayors and city councils, supervisors, like that. They have chaos like hasn't ever been seen in this country when you talk about crisis. Part of this is soft on crime, part of it is soft on border, soft on what they call immigration. This isn't immigration, it is an invasion.

Immigration would imply that there is a legal process to it. Again, we still welcome legal immigration to this country. We always have. That is the part that gets caught up in the blatant

misinformation placed out there, because Republicans want to have order. They want to have something that will preserve the sovereignty of this country and preserve all the infrastructure within it.

I mean, when you look at the cities here, take New York City, where they are filling up community centers and school rooms and gyms and national parks with—they use the term “migrants.” A migrant is a euphemism. This is an illegal immigrant invasion. They are getting angry because people are bussing them in from Texas, Florida, and wherever else. The border States are overloaded. California, which I represent a part of, is one of those border States along with Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. Truly, though, it ends up pretty much all of our States in effect are border States because you have the Biden administration flying these folks around the country and placing them wherever they see fit.

It is interesting to see. They squawk about maybe the Governor of Texas and Florida and some others bussing them to their city where they proclaim they are a sanctuary city, we welcome you, we want you to come in, as the Governor of New York and the mayor of New York City have claimed in the past, and then are backtracking on now because the numbers have finally caught up to them even though they have been warned and warned and warned by those of us who can see what that is going to look like.

Why do we put in place people who allow a system like this to happen, to foster a system that is so, indeed, broken as it is? We have the laws. We have the rules, and we even passed in this House a good piece of legislation, H.R. 2, to refine those rules.

You hear people saying: Oh, you Republicans are full of hooey on that because you say, on the one hand, enforce the laws you have, but on the other, why do you want this new law to come in? Well, because they are not doing the job. Asylum needs to be refined, it looks like.

Now, if you had a different administration that was on the side of the American people and on the side of enforcing the law, you could probably interpret asylum as it was originally intended, for those who indeed are facing a crisis due to an oppressive government.

However, no, it has been interpreted to be just pretty much wide open. Our border is a sieve. When I visited the border, you see people coming through a coyote process or paying people big money, otherwise their lives might be harmed by the coyote system they have down there, the cartels.

I saw pretty nice people coming across. There were families and such like that. These aren't bad people at heart. They are breaking the law, but when you leave a great big green light there saying come on in, I guess I can't blame them, but the people you are

talking about aren't necessarily persecuted by a government in such fashion but, more, they are seeking economic opportunity. Nine out of ten or more are seeking economic opportunity, seeking a job, seeking the promise.

You hear the Democrats, you hear people in the media saying: All they want is to come and seek a better life. Well, sure, but the life of this country, the lives of the citizens who are already here, those who came here legally, came here properly, and those who have been here, born here as citizens, they are paying the freight on all this because you are bringing folks in who haven't been brought up in the American way, haven't been educated in our ways, probably don't speak the language in many, many cases, may not even have a skill to bring so that they can self-sustain themselves and their family.

It will be maybe low-skilled labor that probably won't pay their own way. That is chaotic, and that is not how our immigration system used to work. One hundred years ago, however many decades ago, you had to offer something that is going to strengthen our country to be an immigrant here.

Now, again, we will hear, oh, that is so closed minded, it is so oppressive and so hateful because that is the only play they have. They keep going to the well on that, call it xenophobia or racism or whatever. No, the greatness of this country is in its process, in its Constitution, in its stability and people who respect that and uphold that, uphold the Constitution, uphold the laws.

The lawlessness we are seeing at the border, as untold numbers are coming across daily, I am glad to see this idea that was coming from the Senate on an immigration bill has pretty much lost any momentum because, at a minimum, according to the pieces I am reading on it, 5,000 people would be allowed across the border per day before they take any action on it.

Now, let's say you are a retailer, all right? You are seeing all the break-ins and the rip-offs and the looting going on. What if you had a rule in your city that said we have to let five thieves in per day to your retail center and they can fill up their bags as much as they want, but on the sixth one we will go ahead and start enforcing on it. We will call the police, detain, whatever.

What kind of crazy idea is that, as well as so many other holes that are in this package?

The first place we start: enforce the border, finish building the fence so that our border personnel are not so overwhelmed and put them back to their real jobs of not just processing people as fast as they can and turning them loose in our country, which maybe they will show up for an asylum hearing in 8 or 10 years and become so entrenched in the country illegally that you can't find them or you can't deport them if you wanted to. That is part of

it. That is part of the chaos that is being fostered.

Where I represent in California, which indeed is a border State, I represent the north end of it, which is about 600 miles from the border itself, but we see the secondary effects of illegal immigration, it keeps growing. When I say "grow," it is literal because what we have in part of my district and some of the southern California districts as well is a proliferation of illegal marijuana grows, many, many acres of them.

There are hundreds of greenhouses that our rural counties are just overwhelmed trying to deal with. There has been a passive response by the Department of Justice, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Biden administration, and our own California administration led by Governor Newsom with soft-on-crime policies.

This changes the landscape of a rural community, having all these marijuana grows and the cartels and all the filth that comes with that—the environmental damage, the people who are abused. Sometimes even slave labor is involved with people captive out there because nobody knows who they are, where they are, let alone having a permit to build these facilities or take the water from somewhere else in order to have the marijuana grow.

Today's marijuana, which is a much more powerful product, brings with it the whole litany of gang activity as this product is moved up and down, in my area, say, Interstate 5, but all over the West, all over the country even.

Illegal immigration has a lot of side effects. The marijuana proliferation, as I mentioned, of course the fentanyl is coming across the border and infecting and destroying so many lives. It goes on and on and on because this administration and our own Governor in California, that administration, continue to foster this lawlessness, soft-on-crime, soft-on-border policy that is doing us so much damage and is probably the biggest problem we face along with our massive deficit and the crunch that is coming from that.

I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) to talk more about that. I greatly respect him and the work he has done on this area on the border. He has been very diligent on putting this out in front of the people and pointing out what a crisis this is to our country and its existence.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California. A week ago, I stood at this microphone and talked about five stories that I think the mainstream press has left uncovered or undercovered. I always felt that under our Constitution, we have three branches of government. Now we are in a lot of trouble. When I think of the three branches of government, I think which one would disappoint our forefathers the most. I think it would be the judiciary, which doesn't have an adequate respect for the U.S. Constitution.

Our Constitution also presupposed an active press corps doing a good job of informing the public of the issues of the day. I don't think these issues have been adequately covered. One more time, I would just like to touch upon what I believe are five key issues that have been in the news but undercovered by the press.

The first one is what is going on at our border. In December, we hit a new all-time high of the number of people crossing the border and staying in this country. That was 370,000. Sometimes the press and for whatever reason some of my colleagues talk about the number of contacts with Border Patrol. They do not talk about the number of people let in the country. The 370,000 is easily the highest amount we have had in a month. By point of reference under the prior administration, the number let in per month in the final year would vary from 5,000 to 20,000 people a month.

□ 1315

We are now increasing by a factor of about 18 to 1, and it creates the biggest threat to the future of our Republic that is out there.

In addition to the 370,000 people crossing the border, all of which will be schooled here, all of which, as promised in his election bid, will receive free medical care. By the way, I should point out that many Americans don't get free medical care. They are either uninsured or have \$20,000 deductibles.

No, our President has promised the new immigrants here free, unlimited healthcare. With those people come, depending on the month, 8,000 to 10,000 unaccompanied minors.

We do not allow 7- or 8-year-olds to wander around the country if they are born here. We are now getting, depending on the month, 800 to 1,000 unaccompanied minors, obviously a recipe for human trafficking, obviously a recipe for being mistreated, being allowed to work in factories all hours.

The administration has not done anywhere near an adequate job of keeping track of these folks and where they are.

They have intentionally said they are not going to be giving out DNA tests so that if somebody wants to be a sponsor and claims to be an uncle for little Missy, we have no idea whether that is true or not.

Depending upon who is doing the counting, we have lost somewhere between 30,000 and 80,000 of these unaccompanied minors somewhere in the country.

For a press corps that in the past had concerns about families being broken up, that only happened for a couple of weeks at a time and only when it was absolutely necessary. Here we have tens of thousands of young children without either parent, possibly never seeing them again.

It is a story that ought to be talked about, and there ought to be graphs on the front page of every newspaper in

the country that we are now letting in 370,000 people.

It should also be more accurately covered the number of people who are dying of preventable overdoses in narcotics. We are over 100,000 a year.

I am old enough to remember the Vietnam war, where there was great concern as we lost 57,000 American servicemen over 12 years. Madam Speaker, 57,000 American servicemen over 12 years—over 100,000 people killed every year by illegal drugs crossing our southern border.

I think the mainstream media ought to do more to point this out. If people die in a murder, if people die in a car accident, it always makes the local pages.

This is far more than the number of murders plus car accidents every year, and we ought to do a better job of educating the public about the number of people dying in any individual county. That is an underreported story and will result in the end of America.

We do report that there is currently a war going on between Hamas and Israel, and it has been reported that that war was started 100 percent by Hamas, which stormed across the border, raping women, cutting the heads off of little children, killing over a thousand people.

I think some members of the American public believe the reason this war began is that, in some fashion, Palestinians were being mistreated by being adjacent to Israel. This is not true at all, and it has been underreported what a potentially good situation one had prior to this war if one lived in Gaza.

During the initial horrific invasion, some people may have noticed that some of the people killed were from Thailand. Other people may have noticed that some of the people who were held hostage were from Thailand. I don't think the mainstream media has done a good job of explaining why that was. It is because if you lived in Gaza or near Gaza, there were all sorts of good jobs that were made available by being at or near Israel.

It recently appeared in the paper that up to 25,000 people from Ecuador wanted to move to Israel to take these jobs. These jobs are better jobs than almost anywhere else in the Arab world. Indeed, why would people from Ecuador or people from Thailand come from halfway around the world to live in Israel? Because it is a wonderful place to live; people are well paid; and even though you are leaving your family behind, it is a highly desirable life.

I think if one considers the number of people from other parts around the world who are coming to Israel to work, one would realize that the case that Hamas has made to society as a whole, that they were a put-upon minority, disappears. It shows 100 percent of the sympathy in the current conflict or the beginning of the conflict should stand with Israel.

Israel right now is looking to put forth agreements with other countries

of people who want to come and take jobs, many of which used to be taken by Palestinians. People from the Philippines and people from Vietnam are also going to be coming to Israel because of the huge economic progress that is made by the Jews in Israel as they have taken a land that was considered almost entirely a wasteland 60 years ago and turned it into one of the most modern countries in the world.

I will also point out that Israel is a very tolerant country. In Gaza itself, run by the Palestinians, they would not have any Jewish temples. In Israel proper, there are over 400 Muslim mosques, which operate and are allowed to operate by the Israeli Government.

I think if we are going to educate the American public about what is going on in this Hamas-Israel war, we have to let the American public know how many people wish they could come to Israel to work.

The next issue—and I talk to people about this all the time when I go back home, and we will talk about it again—is the attitude of the new head of the Joint Chiefs, General Brown, toward his diversity initiative.

Now, traditionally, America has gotten where it is by being a meritocracy, and people advance whether they are good or bad. Of all the parts of society, the part of society that had better never cease to be number one is our American military.

Nevertheless, the head of the Joint Chiefs has publicly said he wants to reduce the number of White male officers from something in the 60 percents down to, I believe, 42 percent, 44 or 42 percent.

Again, this is a fundamental change in the way the military has naturally done things. They want to operate like a little second-rate community college in which they are more concerned about race or where people's great-great-grandparents were born than about making sure we have the right person for the job.

I think this is something that should be discussed more, even though General Brown has been confirmed, and finding out what exactly is being done in achieving this goal.

On a subcommittee that I am fortunate enough to chair, we had a hearing on this topic. We found out that there is a perception, which probably is true, that people who are White are treated poorly. As a result, we are not meeting our recruiting goals because White people are realizing, perhaps accurately, that they are going to have a hard time in the military.

When it comes time to be promoted, they are going to be viewed hostilely. I think that is something we must look at more.

The next thing to talk about is that we have tax credits that are benefiting the wealthiest developers in our society. We are expanding the use of those credits under the tax bill that I voted for because of other good provisions

and the tax law passed a couple of weeks ago.

I personally think the low-income section 42 tax credits are the worst in the tax code. They give money to well-heeled developers. They are allowed to have 70 percent of their building paid for by the government, a lavish subsidy in which the already wealthy members of society become wealthier still.

Finally, I would mention the prayer breakfast we had a week ago, which is something else that has been understated. We will talk about that next week.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Ms. Deirdre Kelly, one of his secretaries.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE WIDESPREAD HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN AFGHANISTAN AND THE POTENTIAL FOR A DEEPENING ECONOMIC COLLAPSE IN AFGHANISTAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-105)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the widespread humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and the potential for a deepening economic collapse in Afghanistan declared in Executive Order 14064 of February 11, 2022, is to continue in effect beyond February 11, 2024.

The widespread humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan—including the urgent needs of the people of Afghanistan for food security, livelihoods support, water, sanitation, health, hygiene, and shelter and settlement assistance, among other basic human needs—and the potential for a deepening economic collapse in Afghanistan continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. In addition, the preservation of certain

property of Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) held in the United States by United States financial institutions is of the utmost importance to addressing this national emergency and the welfare of the people of Afghanistan. Various parties, including representatives of victims of terrorism, have asserted legal claims against certain property of DAB or indicated in public court filings an intent to make such claims. This property is blocked under Executive Order 14064.

Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 14064 with respect to the widespread humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and the potential for a deepening economic collapse in Afghanistan.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 7, 2024.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN AND IN RELATION TO BURMA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-106)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

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The situation in and in relation to Burma, and in particular the February 1, 2021 coup, in which the military overthrew the democratically elected civilian government of Burma and unjustly arrested and detained government leaders, politicians, human rights defenders, journalists, and religious leaders, thereby rejecting the will of the people of Burma as expressed in elections held in November 2020 and undermining the country's democratic transition and rule of law, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 14014 with respect to Burma.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 7, 2024.