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No. 149

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EZELL).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
September 24, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE EZELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2024, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### SHOOTING IN BIRMINGHAM'S FIVE POINTS SOUTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to honor the victims of the horrific mass shooting that rattled the Birmingham community over the weekend.

On Saturday night, just after 11 p.m., 21 people were shot in Birmingham's Five Points South entertainment district. Four of them tragically lost their lives.

Let me be clear: this, indeed, is a senseless violence and unacceptable, and it must stop. Our thoughts are with the families as they endure this unimaginable loss. Nothing compares to the pain of losing a loved one to gun violence. We stand with them in this time of great sadness, and we pray for a speedy recovery for those who were injured.

I join in expressing my gratitude to the police officers and first responders, as well as our county, State, and Federal partners, for their quick response.

My staff and I have been closely monitoring the situation, and we stand ready to assist the city of Birmingham in any way that we can.

While this horrific tragedy has focused the eyes of the Nation on Birmingham, Alabama, the surge of gun violence is a reality that far too many of my constituents endure every day.

Our communities are crying out for change, and we, as elected officials, owe it to them to do all that we can at every level of government to keep them safe.

Again, I want to be clear: this senseless violence is unacceptable, and it must stop. That means bringing more resources to community organizations that are fighting to break the cycle of violence. It means teaching our children about alternatives to gun violence, and it also means passing commonsense measures to keep weapons off of the streets of America.

Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers are important. They are needed, but they will not bring back the lives of those lost to gun violence, nor will they prevent such tragedies from happening again.

The Members of this body cannot continue to sit by as family after family, community after community, are torn apart. It is time for Congress to finally pass universal background checks, red flag laws, and a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

It is also time for State officials in the State of Alabama to reverse the permitless carry law, which has allowed the unchecked proliferation of guns onto our streets. Only by taking meaningful action can we stem this needless loss of life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to keep the entire Birmingham community in their prayers, and I hope that we can come together and turn this pain into purpose and do something about it.

### RETURN TO TRUE CAPITALISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the final frontier of the woke mind virus is the banks and capitalism themselves. They have already tarnished America's other institutions.

Last week, House Republicans passed H.R. 5339, the Protecting Americans' Investments from Woke Policies Act, a bill that would confront and dispatch one of the most nefarious and hidden forms of wokeness: environmental, social, and governance investing, or ESG for short.

In his book, "Go Woke, Go Broke," author Charles Gasparino punctures the woke mind virus and ESG.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the book review of "Go Woke, Go Broke."

[From the Wall Street Journal, Sept. 8, 2024]

'GO WOKE, GO BROKE' REVIEW: THE WORST INVESTMENTS

(By Tunku Varadarajan)

Charles Gasparino is a gladiatorial journalist. When he steps into the arena to fight a money-man or enterprise that he believes is anticapitalist or crooked, he can be brutal. Making an enemy of him is not for the faint-hearted: Watch him trade insults with his critics on social media. He was once a Wall Street reporter for this newspaper, where

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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editors and colleagues remember him for his no-holds-barred style. Which is precisely how we'd describe the approach in "Go Woke, Go Broke," Mr. Gasparino's blistering account of "how corporate America became something close to a foot soldier in the progressive movement." Now a senior correspondent at the Fox Business Network, Mr. Gasparino is also a columnist at the New York Post, whose irreverent, indignant (and often irresistible) tabloid style is very much in evidence here. (Fox, the Post and the Journal share common ownership.)

"Go Woke, Go Broke" is a takedown of "corporate wokeness," which Mr. Gasparino describes as the "noxious ideology of progressive politics in the boardroom—an ideology, he says, that 'needs to die a thousand deaths.'" The book can be seen as a demotic complement to "Woke, Inc." (2021), by the brainy (and sometimes tiresome) former Republican presidential contender Vivek Ramaswamy. Mr. Gasparino's is the better book for its plainspokenness: Many more Middle Americans—whose jobs have been outsourced or have been imperiled by the high-minded dictates of "diversity"—will grasp its message. These are the people who, Mr. Gasparino argues, have been shafted by the Wall Street "fat cats" who've grown "much fatter" by their "feeding at the ESG trough."

ESG stands for "environmental, social, and governance"—metrics intended to direct or funnel investment in an ostensibly socially responsible direction. Mr. Gasparino is a populist-capitalist, and ESG is his *bête noire*, along with "diversity, equity, and inclusion" (DEI). These "leftist shibboleths" have, the author says, "warped" American business practices for nearly two decades and grew in intensity under the second Obama administration.

Mr. Gasparino traces the roots of ESG to the 1980s and '90s, when business leaders began embracing so-called corporate social responsibility (or CSR, in its now archaic abbreviation). CSR, in time, evolved into bien-pensant notions of stakeholder capitalism, championed by the likes of Klaus Schwab, the founder of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Davos Man, writes Mr. Gasparino, "represents the ultimate marriage of the progressive globalist corporate citizen with the globalist progressive regulatory bureaucrat."

All this performatively moral investing is a revolt against Milton Friedman, the economist who in 1970 stated that "the social responsibility of business is to increase its profits." Friedman, writes Mr. Gasparino, would have hated ESG and DEI, "among the most heinously anti-American management philosophies ever developed." (Readers of Mr. Gasparino's robust book will realize pretty quickly that nuance is for wimps.)

Basing his book largely on a host of interviews with "company insiders," Mr. Gasparino gives us entertaining (and informative) accounts of corporate blunders in the name of wokeness. He reminds us of the time AB InBev—the holding company for Anheuser-Busch and its beer, Budweiser—thought it would be a great idea to use a "transwoman influencer" named Dylan Mulvaney to market its top-selling Bud Light. Middle America revolted and stopped buying the beer, heretofore branded as a manly beverage. Mr. Gasparino also recounts how the discount retailer Target was punished by consumers for promoting "tuck-friendly bathing suits for men transitioning to women" alongside rainbow-colored onesies for toddlers. And Disney, recalls the author, erred politically and financially when its chief executive, Bob Chapek, embarked on a bruising battle with Florida's Gov. Ron DeSantis and challenged the valid-

ity of a state law barring public schools from teaching sexual education to children before the fourth grade. In each case, the company's stock price tanked and sales plummeted.

It enrages Mr. Gasparino that America's corporate management luxuriates "in progressive causes as a side hustle." But in some cases, he tells us, these causes are the main course. Among the villains trying to ram ESG down our throats are Larry Fink, the CEO of BlackRock; Jamie Dimon, the CEO of JPMorgan Chase; David Solomon, the CEO of Goldman Sachs; and the "ESG-obsessed" Gary Gensler, President Biden's chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, whom Mr. Gasparino describes as "a male version" of Sen. Elizabeth Warren, "among the most woke, annoying, and . . . dangerous bureaucrats in government." Add to the list Adena Friedman, the CEO of Nasdaq, which demands that companies seeking to list on its exchange disclose board-level diversity statistics and, if the need arises, explain why they don't have a diversity of directors. Such demands aren't, of course, slapped on Chinese companies, which are, Mr. Gasparino points out, curiously exempt from all the wokest rules. When was the last time a Chinese company was asked why it didn't have a Uyghur on its board, or an LGBTQ+ person?

Attacking Larry Fink as "Mr. ESG," says Mr. Gasparino, has become "a rallying cry on the populist right," whose backlash against corporate wokeness has been so fierce that even BlackRock has started to dismount from its moral high horse. Consumers' Research, a conservative advocacy group pushing back against ESG, derides the abbreviation as "elitists, socialists, and grifters," as well as "erasing savings and growth"—pungent and effective put-downs. More and more investors are aware that ESG-specific funds are expensive and rarely beat the market. In fact, writes Mr. Gasparino, "they're some of the worst investments," even as they make it harder to tackle inflation by forcing curbs on fossil fuels. But Middle America appears to have woken up to the perils of ESG and is giving voice to its displeasure. "It's now their Arab Spring," says Mr. Gasparino. This may be hyperbolic overreach, even for the crusading Mr. Gasparino, but he's confident that America's version of a grassroots people's revolt will end better than the one in the Middle East. Let's pray he's right.

Ms. FOXX. He describes ESG, and diversity, equity, and inclusion, DEI, as " . . . among the most heinously anti-American management philosophies ever developed."

This book amplifies the points we made when we passed our legislation last week. ESG is an ideological cancer buoyed by asset managers, banks, and financial institutions that kneel at the altar of anticapitalism.

Americans saving for retirement don't want to see their hard-earned money go up in flames in ESG funds. They want a sizeable return on their investments.

We need to embrace true capitalism again in America. This woke garbage needs to be put out to pasture and left to die.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF GLEN NEFF MCGHIE, JR.

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to eulogize three individuals who made a difference in their lives, in so many different ways, to our community and to our country.

Glen Neff McGhie, Jr., was one of those whose life made a difference. He exemplified service to our community and to our country.

He served in Vietnam. After coming home, he continued to dedicate much of his life to helping veterans in need, who needed support after serving our country, as well as those who had suffered disabilities.

He was a devout volunteer to the Disabled American Veterans organization and served as president of the Veterans Home of California, a home that I have worked with for many, many years that we brought together with State and Federal funding.

Glen was very proud of the ability to provide services to our veterans throughout the San Joaquin Valley. One of his last major accomplishments was building a monument, which is seen here, to honor veterans in the San Joaquin Valley whose lives exemplified public service. For a grateful Nation, we can never ever be thankful enough, and Glen understood that.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the memory of Glen Neff McGhie. He will be remembered for so many of the invaluable contributions he has made, not only to our community, but to our valley, to our State, and to our Nation.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF KATHY BONILLA

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to honor the life of Kathy Bonilla. Kathy was a stellar educator who represented Fresno City College and the State Center Community College System, again, in the San Joaquin Valley.

She understood the importance of the community college system in California, which encompassed 116 community colleges. State Center was where she did so much for so many who have received their community college education.

Since 1991, she served as a public information officer for Fresno City College, home of the Rams, ensuring that the community learned about the college's exemplary programs and outstanding students, who were all using this opportunity to further their education so that they could have opportunities for career paths that would add value and make a difference for our country.

Her extensive contributions established her as an expert in media, and her work extended to the State level as an active member of the California Community College Public Relations Organization because it was important to talk about all the incredible things that Fresno City College did and the opportunities that they provided for students throughout our valley.

Above all, Kathy was a wonderful mother and wife to her husband, Jesse, and their daughter, Angelina.