

PROBLEM AT OUR BORDERS

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

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about an issue. In my lifetime, I always heard the saying: There are no problems in our family. There are just a lot of things we don't talk about.

What I am talking about today is the fact that we have an incredible problem at our borders, and not just the southwestern border, by the way, but also our northern border.

Now, if these people coming into our country were wearing the uniform of a foreign country, we would swear we had been invaded and overrun. The other part of that is: It is okay, though, because we will do everything we can to accommodate them while they are here. It doesn't matter if they came here legally or illegally. We are America and those are the things that we do.

Madam Speaker, I bring this thing up because I listen to telecast after telecast from the current administration that says: Well, if Congress would just do something to help us, we would jump on it. We would do everything we can.

I would like to remind the executive branch that we legislate. We make laws, we debate laws, we pass laws, and then it is the executive branch who is responsible for enforcing those laws.

We have an administration that continues to say: There is no problem at our borders; this is imaginary; we don't have a problem; but if it were up to me, I would do something about it.

These are the eight authorities that the President could put into effect: End catch and release, reinstate remain in Mexico, enter into asylum cooperation agreements, end parole abuses, detain inadmissible aliens, use expedited removal, rein in taxpayer-funded benefits for all illegal aliens, and issue a proclamation to suspend or restrict entry.

Madam Speaker, you and I know because we face this every single day. The issues that face America today are America's issues. They do not simply rest in this body. We will do things according to what the laws are and what we structure. The executive branch must be held accountable for enforcing those laws.

We wonder what in the world happened at our southern border. My goodness, the numbers are in the millions of people who have come in. One of the things we don't pay attention to is our northern border.

I brought a picture of this—I know it is very hard to see, but in the whole world, the longest continuous border is our northern border. It is 5,500 miles long and virtually unprotected because we don't have enough people to do it. In one stretch, over 500 miles, there are two Border Patrol agents responsible. That would be like driving from Philadelphia to Columbus, Ohio, and back

again and saying: I didn't see one State policeman. I didn't see one law enforcement officer. I wonder where they are.

Well, the truth of the matter is, we have people pouring in from all over the world; some of them for the right reasons, others for the wrong reasons, and for reasons that in the future will harm our country and harm our fellow citizens.

When you start to talk about what has taken place and how if we ignore it, it doesn't exist, then we are in very serious trouble. This is not a Republican issue or a Democrat issue or a Libertarian issue. This is an American issue. If those of us who run for office and get elected and take an oath of office cannot follow that oath of office, then why are we here? Why are we here?

Millions of people have poured across our border. There were 564 encounters with a terrorist screening dataset, 484 at the northern border. In fiscal year 2022 82 percent of these encounters were at our northern border. In the first 3 months of 2024, 94 percent of the terrorist screening dataset encounters were at our northern border.

While we think we are so safe because of our history and what we have done in history that we can protect ourselves, the underlying effect is the enemy is not from without; it is from within.

When we fail to follow the laws that are put into place and we don't enforce them, then we are at fault. I would suggest to our fellow Americans, please forget about being woke. Please wake the hell up. We are losing our country.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 8 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EZELL) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Merciful God, Your Word is rich with promises. You have spoken throughout eternity and reminded us that in You we have all that we require and are in need of nothing. We know in the depths of our heart and soul that not one of Your good promises has failed.

Help us, then, to be patient, to wait on You, O Lord, and trust in Your perfect timing for You are not slow in keeping Your promise, certainly not as we define slowness. Instead, You are patient with us, waiting on us to ac-

knowledge You and trust in Your gracious provisions.

And so this day, we repent of our doubt and receive Your generous gift of space and time, allowing us to discover You and to claim the promise of Your everlasting love.

In Your sovereign name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COURTNEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S TWO-TIERED JUSTICE SYSTEM

(Mr. ROSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my grave concern for our country's judicial system.

Recently, a special counsel investigating President Biden's mishandling of classified materials chose not to pursue felony charges because the President's memory had such "significant limitations" that the counsel was not confident he could convince a jury that Mr. Biden held the required mental state of willfulness.

I am highly suspicious that this is yet another example of President Biden's administration's two-tiered justice system, which is a serious concern for me, the Tennesseans I represent, and freedom-loving Americans all across this country.

President Biden should be held to the same standards as anyone else in this country. If he has the mental acuity to be President, he has the mental capacity to be charged with a serious crime, period. Anything else wreaks of an abhorrent two-tiered justice system or a man who has no business being our President.

END HUNGER NOW

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, up to 40 percent of the food produced in our country goes to waste. Food waste packs our landfills, increases harmful emissions that contribute to our climate crisis, and drives up costs for producers, manufacturers, and consumers alike.

With 44 million of our fellow citizens struggling with food insecurity, it is clear we need a better nationwide strategy to divert food that is perfectly good to eat from landfills and to the plates of hungry families.

I am grateful for the efforts of U.S. Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Food and Drug Administration for their work in leading an interagency task force to tackle this very issue.

Their work, coming out of the 2022 White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, has resulted in a comprehensive Draft National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics.

The strategy, which I ask all of my colleagues to read, details how each and every one of us, from citizens to government agencies, can do our part to reduce food waste as we work to end hunger now.

NATIONAL SECURITY SUPPLEMENTAL SUBMARINE INDUSTRIAL BASE AND AUKUS

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the bipartisan national security package that passed out of the Senate Tuesday which will deliver critical security assistance to our allies in Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan, and provide historic investments in the U.S. submarine industrial base to dramatically increase capacity in support of our own Navy and the historic trilateral AUKUS security agreement with Australia and the U.K. that Congress last December enacted in the National Defense Authorization Act.

Mr. Speaker, an overlooked item in this package is the \$3.3 billion for the U.S. submarine industrial base for workforce development, to stabilize the nationwide supply chain, upgrade shipyard infrastructure, and advance mature technology opportunities like additive manufacturing. I would note, as part of AUKUS, Australia has agreed to match that sum and invest \$3 billion into our economy and our industrial base for the same objectives.

Make no mistake, failure to pass this legislation is a vote against AUKUS and limits the outstanding progress that our nations have already made. I implore Speaker JOHNSON to bring the bill to the floor. We know that there are over 300 votes today to get this package through to help our friends

who are desperately looking to America for global and national security leadership.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7160, SALT MARRIAGE PENALTY ELIMINATION ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 987, DENOUNCING THE HARMFUL, ANTI-AMERICAN ENERGY POLICIES OF THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 994 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 994

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 7160) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the limitation on the amount certain married individuals can deduct for State and local taxes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 987) denouncing the harmful, anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration, and for other purposes. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

House Resolution 994 provides for consideration of two measures, H.R. 7160 and H. Res. 987. The rule provides

for H.R. 7160 to be considered under a closed rule, with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees and provides for one motion to recommit.

The rule further provides for consideration of H. Res. 987 under a closed rule, with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this rule and in support of the underlying legislation. H.R. 7160, the SALT Marriage Penalty Elimination Act, would bring much-needed relief to hard-working Americans in high-tax States that make the cost of living unbearable.

This legislation is an important fix to our Nation's tax code that will raise the cap for joint income filers, married couples, to \$20,000. This legislation makes right a provision in our tax code that is clearly unfair and penalizes middle-class families in many States across our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, President Biden's reckless spending of hard-earned taxpayer dollars means that American families are already saddled with high inflation. Add to that the exorbitant taxes paid by those who live in States like I do that are run by Democrats who want to take and spend even more of their money.

Many of my colleagues have argued that raising the cap for the State and local tax deductions is just bailing out blue States for their reckless spending and failed policies. However, New York, as is the case with many of our higher tax States, pays far more into the Federal Government than it receives in return, and that money that New York State pays into the Federal Government is invested in States across this great Nation for things like infrastructure, law enforcement, and other essential services.

I can assure my colleagues here today that millions of New Yorkers, including those living in my own district, are painfully aware and routinely against the fiscal insanity perpetuated by Governor Kathy Hochul of New York, just as millions of Californians are deeply opposed to the reckless tax-and-spend policies of Governor Gavin Newsom and Democrats in Sacramento. That is why this legislation before us today is not a bailout for harmful State policies. It is a lifeline to Americans who are feeling the pain of this out-of-control taxation firsthand.

Mr. Speaker, it is common to hear from those opposed to the SALT deduction that this deduction only benefits the very rich. I encourage them to talk to police officers and firefighters living on Long Island in Nassau or Suffolk County or middle-class families living in southern California trying to pay their bills, put food on the table, and