

I have to ask again: President Biden, Secretary Mayorkas, whose side are you on? Is it the American people, or is it some other agenda? We can't tell.

Tons of fentanyl are being smuggled into our country, killing our youth. The price of fentanyl is coming down. It is so cheap now because there is such a massive supply—you know, supply and demand. It is getting cheap because it is so frequently available coming across our border illegally.

Deadly chemicals and people are being trafficked to work on the illegal marijuana grows, like we have so many of in northern California, just taking over the land.

Criminal aliens repeatedly broke the law, like the Venezuelan national who recently killed Laken Riley in broad daylight.

House Republicans know that border security is, indeed, national security for our whole country. Every State, as we have said time and again, is now feeling like a border State.

We did pass the strongest border security bill in history in H.R. 2. Now, about a hundred yards that direction, Senator SCHUMER and the gang over there have refused to bring it up for a vote. Instead, they proposed a watered-down immigration bill that would allow—get this—1.8 illegal immigrants a year in our country. It codifies that.

Go ahead, 1.8 million, come on in. Once we reach that threshold, then we will start enforcing something.

How can you take a law or a bill idea like that even seriously?

They would be rewarded with immediate work permits and an ability to stay longer once they are identified. I mean, calling that a border security package is an unfunny joke.

President Biden's open border policies are putting Americans in true danger. This border crisis is responsible for the deaths of countless Americans and the destruction of countless American families.

I just saw a video back from 1995 when President Clinton stood right up there and gave a State of the Union Address and outlined the problem that illegal immigration is in displacing jobs and providing more danger for the American public. That was in 1995 when President Clinton, a Democrat, said that.

What has changed politically in that timeframe that now the Democrats are all for what is happening on our border or, at the very least, doing nothing about it?

They had a period of time when they controlled both Houses and the White House with President Biden just a little over a year ago. They had a 2-year window to do something about that. They had all the ability to line up the votes and the signatures they needed to do that. They did nothing.

Instead, they are saying it is Republicans that are blocking it. We have been for solid border policy since day one.

President Trump led the charge for 4 years on that, and they pushed back.

They thwarted him. They thwarted funding for the border.

They want to send billions and billions overseas for other things when a fraction of that would secure our own southern border. Come on.

One more time: The President will be here tomorrow night, and that side of the room is going to be applauding everything. Our side? Some good, maybe some bad. It will be a mixed bag on this side of the room.

I have to ask the President: As you address us, remember, ask yourself, whose side are you on?

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California, and I think he summed up every State of the Union that has ever existed quite well.

There will be areas and opportunities of unity and things that we can be focused on together. I am hopeful that we can use this as a case to talk about the real issues that we are having and the fundamental problems but also solutions.

We know them. We can talk energy policy. We can talk immigration policy. We can talk economic policy. I can do that all day long.

I will wrap up here as to not belabor it but to just point out: Rise above it, President Biden. Rise above it. Look back to the previous administration's policies with things regarding the remain in Mexico policy, the Migrant Protection Protocols.

It is a simple concept. You cannot just say Mexico won't do it. President Trump and Vice President Pence forced the issue with our Mexican neighbors, and they got them to agree this was good for both countries. Whatever limits cartel activity is good for both nations.

Don't hide behind the fact that there is a partnership with Mexico, and you can't do it because of that. It is simple data that shows we can be effective, create these relationships, and improve our situation at the border dramatically with just that one change.

That is just one of many different types of executive actions that you can take. We have already passed it. You can't say we are not willing to legislate on this issue because we have already passed it. The Senate refuses to take it up. The House passed it. The Senate refuses to take it up.

Take some action, President Biden. Talk to your Senators and to Senate Leader SCHUMER and convince them that there are opportunities there. There are things we can do to reverse some of your bad policies.

Don't just look at the previous administration and say, all right, I have to do everything different from them, and then all of a sudden, it leads to these catastrophic events.

Take a look at data, see what works, and implement it. It is as simple as that. It is what the American people recognize, and we have to be willing to follow it.

I highlighted a lot of things about economic policy, from inflation to ev-

everything. Those are things that affect every single American. If we just focused on energy policy, economic policy, and immigration policy, we could really make an improvement for Americans across this great Nation and set ourselves up for success.

I hope I will be able to hear some of that. I am not hopeful that we will hear productive solutions. There might be plenty of rhetoric spewed, but we have to be able to find a way to get those three things that matter most and that affect my constituents and those from every single district across the Nation the most.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 902

Mr. RASKIN (during the Special Order of Mr. MOORE of Utah). Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H. Res. 902.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is granted.

FAILED POLICIES

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 my friend from Utah for his time down here on the floor pointing out some of the things that we most assuredly will not hear from the President of the United States and those that we wish we would hear from him.

I can tell you one thing we are not going to hear from the President of the United States tomorrow night in this Chamber is any specific actions that he would take or should have taken or apologies for his policies that led to the unfortunate passing 2 weeks ago of Laken Riley.

We know we will not hear that because our Democrat colleagues refuse to take ownership of the policies that the President of the United States has adopted and that Secretary Mayorkas has implemented on his behalf in direct violation of their oaths to the Constitution and under the laws of the United States. As a result, there are Americans who have died.

We know that the President of the United States is not going to take ownership over the high inflation that is decimating families, the regulatory state they put in place that has made the automobiles that the American people need to drive too expensive, allowing EVs to pile up on the lots of dealers while we put mandates in place, the extent to which we have now been banning liquefied natural gas exports by shutting down the ability to get them out of terminals, which is making us more beholden to the special interests and the corporate cronyism

that was all funded by subsidies under the Inflation Reduction Act, all policies led by the radical progressive Democrats that have complete control of the Democratic Party and that are the puppet masters, pulling the strings to which the President of the United States dances.

Tomorrow, he won't talk about those things. He will give a lot of excuses, hiding behind Senate bills and things that allegedly the House of Representatives are not doing.

I think it is a really important day. I need to say something as a Texan. Today is Alamo Day, the day that marks the end of the 13 days of assiegement and fighting and the final sacrifice of almost 200 brave men in the name of freedom at the Alamo.

I am proud to represent San Antonio. The Alamo means a lot to those of us in central Texas, particularly in and around San Antonio.

I think it is really important to note what that meant. I asked a year ago today when I spoke on this issue, or on this commemoration, I should say: What did they declare independence for? What did Travis and the men at the Alamo sacrifice for? A Federal Government that opens our borders to cartels? A group of Republicans who campaign on securing the border yet run away in abject surrender, refusing to actually do it?

That is the question before us right now. That is the question I asked a year ago.

□ 1900

I might remind everybody of the letter from William Barret Travis, commander at the Alamo, February 24, 1836: "Fellow citizens and compatriots, I am besieged by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannonade for 24 hours and have not lost a man. The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken. I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, and our flag still waves proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of liberty, of patriotism, and everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid, with all dispatch. The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily and will no doubt increase to 3 or 4,000 in 4 or 5 days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor and that of his country. Victory or death. William Barret Travis, Lieutenant Colonel Commandant."

Now, that was nearly 200 men standing on the wall at the Alamo knowing almost certain death—knowing almost certain death is what they faced. It is notable that on this date, today, 188 years ago William Barret Travis who wrote that letter died.

Davey Crockett, who was fairly well known in the history of our country,

who served in this Chamber—although not in this building but back behind us in the original House Chamber—Davey Crockett, a Member of Congress from the State of Tennessee, who like a number of Tennesseans came to the aid of Texas at the Alamo, Davey Crockett died that day, today, 188 years ago.

We Americans love to have our parades. We love to commemorate these kinds of events. Ask a Texan about the Alamo, and they will fill their chest and stick it out, and they will talk about how great Texas is.

Ask an American about D-Day or about our history and what George Washington did crossing the Delaware or talking about any of the great battles that our men and women in uniform have carried out on behalf of this great country, and they will well up with pride, they will stick their chest out, and they will talk about how great this country is.

But the question that I think needs to be asked sitting here on the floor of the House of Representatives in, yet again, another empty Chamber: What are we willing to do? What are we willing to do? What are the people of this body willing to do? What are my colleagues on both sides of the aisle willing to do in the face of the massive assault on our country that we are experiencing as we speak? What are we actually willing to do?

I have heard lots of speeches, even tonight, speeches about how much our debt is piling up around us and how we need to cut spending. Every single Member of this body, but particularly my Republican colleagues, talk about the debt. \$34.4 trillion. Well, tomorrow it is going to be \$34.5 trillion. We are racking up a trillion dollars of debt every 100 days, and yet, we give lip service to it.

So again, I go back to this point about these men standing on the wall at the Alamo facing certain death if these reinforcements didn't get there. They probably knew full well they weren't going to get them. Yet, they were willing to stand there and die.

For what? To be enslaved to \$34.4 trillion of debt? To be told that you can't get the automobile of your choice? To be told that there is going to be a kill switch that will cut your car off if your eyes dart a certain way? To be told that you must accept untold numbers of illegal aliens coming into your country getting free services, free education, free healthcare while bankrupting your country?

Is that what those men died for?

Did those men die for criminals to be let out on the streets? Did they die so that one of these men's great-granddaughters could get murdered as a student in Georgia, or for example, in Texas a young woman that was found dead in a bathtub? A young cheerleader's mom wanted to go see her, expected to go see her at a cheerleading event, comes home, and she is dead in the bathtub.

Is that what these men sacrificed for? Is that what they put it all on the line for?

When we all talk about the men that sat in the foxholes of Bastogne freezing at Christmas so we could live in this country, did they fight for those things?

I have to be really blunt here. Did they fight so that Republicans could campaign on cutting spending and today on the floor of this Chamber vote to pass a bill that without question, undebatably, unquestionably increases spending significantly in the form of tens of billions of dollars over that of NANCY PELOSI's omnibus spending bill, despite the fact that we had bipartisan spending caps put in place last year, passed in this Chamber with majorities of both Republicans and Democrats and the Senate and signed by the President of the United States?

We ignored those caps, we spent more than those caps, and then we had the audacity to try to claim to the American people publicly that we cut spending. This is what the American people are sick of.

Let me be perfectly clear standing here. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are, in fact, radical, progressive Democrats, period. They are pushing policies, along with the President of the United States, that is flooding this country with people from all over the world into Texas, into Arizona, into California, stacking our schools, stacking our jails, overwhelming our system, giving out benefits, paying money, all so that people like Marc Elias can challenge in court to stop Arizona from having a law that says only citizens can vote.

Now why might that be?

It is purposeful. It is happening every second, even as we pile up debt around our ears to the tune of \$34.4 trillion and counting—a trillion dollars of interest in 2026; more interest than our defense this year.

It is astounding.

And my colleagues on this side of the aisle and that side of the aisle will hide behind either—from my radical, progressive, Democratic colleagues, they will hide behind taxes. They will say, oh, we have had too many tax cuts. Even though 2 years ago we had more revenue in the Treasury than we ever had.

My colleagues on this side of the aisle will hide behind mandatory spending. They will scratch their beards, look at you and say, oh, but, CHIP, you're getting hung up on 17 percent of the budget. Can't you do math? Really.

Like they look at you like somehow you are insane because you are focused on the discretionary budgets sitting in front of you that you think maybe, just maybe, we should take the discretionary budget that we have total control of every year and demonstrate an ounce—an ounce of actual responsibility and fiscal sanity by saying maybe, just maybe, we shouldn't give

\$12.5 billion to the United Nations. I am just throwing that out there—\$12.5 billion to the United Nations to undermine our country, to work with NGOs to move people into the United States purposely. That is what the United Nations is doing. They worked with Hamas to attack Israel. We funded it. We did that. And they want to say, oh, well, who cares about that?

Well, what about the \$12.7 billion in earmarks that we passed today on the floor of the House filled with all sorts of pet projects so our colleagues can go back home and say: Look what I brought home to you.

Why do I pick those two numbers? Why do I pick those two things, \$12.5 billion in the United Nations and \$12.7 billion in earmarks passed here?

They are massive numbers for both Democrats and Republicans. You know how much Texas has had to spend over the last 3 years to secure the border of the United States in Texas, which is the job of the Federal Government? \$12.5 billion.

Do you know how much Texas has been paid back? Not a red cent.

All I can tell you is those boys that stood at that wall at the Alamo didn't do it for that. March 2, is Texas' Independence Day. I have got to tell you, read about the history of our independence. In 1836, Texas became a sovereign nation for a brief 9 years before we joined the Union. It has got a nice ring to it. But Texas joined that Union, and that Union and that Constitution says this country is supposed to protect its border, and it is leaving Texas exposed.

So with all due respect to Republican leadership and with all due respect to my colleagues on this side of the aisle, when I hear these excuses about we only have a two-vote majority, and sometimes you guys are taking down rules, that is swamp speak for I don't want to make the tough choice and say that we are going to go stand up on that wall like those boys did.

That is what it means.

It means Republican leadership is more concerned about defense spending for the defense establishment in this town. It means that Republican leadership is more concerned about ensuring that warrantless surveillance of Americans under FISA can continue without changing it.

It means that Republican leadership is more concerned about ensuring that we have money for Ukraine's borders rather than our borders.

That is the kind of thing we are talking about.

We are heading into the state of the Union tomorrow with the President of the United States who is in charge of a party of progressive, radical Democrats who want to remake our country, leave our borders open, spend us into oblivion, conduct endless wars, remake us with radical woke policies, DEI, and all the things that are destroying our country and dividing us up by race.

I want a Republican Party that is shoving it right back down and saying,

you know what, we are going to pass a bill that funds this government at the caps we passed last year. We are going to send it over to the Senate. We are going to send it over with H.R. 2. It will secure the border of the United States. We are going to go around this country, and we are going to sell it to every single American. Like those boys on the wall of the Alamo, we are fighting for them. Like those boys sitting in the foxholes in Bastogne or walking into a wall of bullets in Normandy, we are fighting for them.

Instead, what always happens in this Chamber is that we find Members of Congress fighting for themselves—earmarks, political patronage, and power.

When are we going to lay it all on the line for the people we came here to represent? That is my question.

I didn't wear the uniform. I represent a hell of a lot of people who do and did, and it is an honor to do so. I feel like I owe every last ounce of devotion to this country and this Constitution and to them for laying it all out on the field there.

So when my colleagues say, why are you so pointed or so emotional about a particular topic or why are you down here animated? It is because of all of those people that sacrificed. It is those 400,000 tombstones on the other side of the Potomac River, many of whom gave the last full measure of devotion so that we could live free.

I have to tell you, we have an obligation to fight for this country, and I will call out President Biden and my radical Democratic colleagues for all they are doing to destroy this country, and I will work to do my best to make sure we have a Republican majority because my Republican colleagues want to preserve and fight for this country. I know it.

We are not going to do it by doing what we did today. We are not going to do it by continuing to spend money we don't have, bankrupting our kids, not securing our border, not getting the policies in place that we said we would fight for and cowering in the corner under accusations of a potential shut down of government.

Can you imagine the boys standing on the walls of the Alamo saying, oh, my gosh, do you know what they are going to do? They are going to tweet something mean about you and say, oh, my gosh, you are going to shut down the government.

Those guys were saying they are going to respond with a cannon shot with an Army of a thousand coming at them in San Antonio.

All those boys who were jumping out into stormy waters in Normandy going up cliffs, climbing and scaling the cliffs so your prize at that point is to try to march to Berlin.

Again, I did not wear the uniform. I have many colleagues who did. One of my colleagues, one of the men for whom I have such enormous respect for his service to this country and his service as a Member of Congress but, in

particular, wearing the uniform of our United States military is my friend from Pennsylvania, Mr. SCOTT PERRY.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Texas for yielding.

I had the honor of visiting the Alamo just about a month ago when I went to the border. Again, I went to the border and I wondered about William Barret Travis. And I have got to tell you, when you are standing there and you are reading that, and you know that you are standing on the ground where giants stood, where things in the world meant something and were worth fighting for, it is invigorating, and it is inspiring to you to do your part.

I wonder, would William Barret Travis and the folks that lost their lives, the guys that lost their lives defending America at the Alamo and Davey Crockett, would they do it for \$20 million for a State route in Alabama? How about \$4.1 million for a bike path in San Diego or \$6.4 million for a greenway trail in Chattanooga or \$1 million for an electric vehicle car share for public housing residents or \$5 million for a Newport, Rhode Island, walking path?

□ 1915

I am sure that all of those are very important things to the people that live in those communities. I believe that. The question is: Why is the Federal Government paying for them when the Federal Government doesn't have any money?

From December to January, we went over \$34 trillion in debt and by May we will be at \$35 trillion. Did the folks at the Alamo, including William Barret Travis, risk his life and ultimately give his life to watch his country be swallowed up in debt?

To that end, the invasion coming from south of the border, we didn't stop in this bill that was just passed, using taxpayer dollars to represent illegal aliens, to get their attorneys for them. They have come illegally, and the people that gave their lives at the Alamo, I guess we would ask them: Hey, you don't mind paying with your life so that we can represent the people who are attacking you right now? You wouldn't mind that, would you?

I bet they would mind. I have got to tell you, my good friend from Texas talked about the folks at Bastogne. I served in the 28th Infantry Division who held Bastogne under-equipped, undermanned, surrounded by the Germans, taking the losses, taking the unbelievable losses, being told to hold the line, stay here, and hold the Germans off until Patton gets here. Everybody remembers Patton came and saved the Bulge and all that stuff. Nobody cares about all of those guys in the 28th Division who lost their lives fighting for the idea of the greatest country on the planet, the greatest country on the planet where we just agreed to fund firearm registries so that we can take

rights away from Americans, where we agreed to fund vaccine mandates at the Veterans Administration.

I don't think they fought for that. I don't think they fought so that we could have another report about China buying up farmland and sensitive land around military installations. We didn't stop them from doing it, but we are sure going to have a report, so that is awesome.

How about this: They fought and lost their lives so that we can continue to fund the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and we also continue to fund sanctuary cities.

It is breathtaking to me what is happening in this Chamber. The individuals that founded this Nation, that pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor, they meant it. They knew how serious it was. They pledged their lives, Mr. Speaker, and we can't even honor their sacrifice by saying we are going to hold the line here and do what we said we were going to do last May.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, that is right, like literally a year ago.

I might just add on this chart, the gentleman refers to House Republicans last year, when we were trying to restore regular order and conservatives were working hard to do that and conservatives voted for a debt ceiling increase, even though we said we wouldn't and we shouldn't, we did. We voted for appropriations bills. Even though the caps were not honored, we did.

We have got colleagues saying we wouldn't work with them when we did everything we knew how to do, and by the way, by passing seven appropriations bills. Moving seven over to the Senate and ten down to the floor, we were able to enact policies to fight the radical Biden regime.

We defunded sanctuary cities refusing to report criminal illegals. We did that. This bill doesn't.

We prohibited the Department of Justice from giving lawyers to illegals, like you just mentioned. We did that. This bill doesn't.

We prohibited the Department of Justice from fast tracking asylum. We did that. This bill doesn't.

We defunded Biden's electric vehicle mandate, anti-power plant rules, and climate executive orders that are killing our economy. We did that. This bill doesn't.

We defunded ATF's pistol brace ban to save and protect Second Amendment rights. This bill doesn't.

We broadly defunded critical race theory and DEI executive orders. This bill doesn't.

We prohibited the FBI from using old construction funds for a new headquarters here. This bill doesn't.

We prohibited the Department of Justice from censoring unlawful

speech, requiring the Department of Justice to create a better process for politically sensitive investigations, defunded the DOJ staff refusing to comply with subpoenas, and more.

We defunded the COVID vaccine mandates. We ended Biden's WOTUS rule. We prohibited pride flags from flying over Federal buildings. We prohibited funds for the Wuhan lab. We did all of those things. This bill does none of those and busted the caps.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY), for the purposes of a colloquy.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, we will have colleagues starting today—starting just moments ago, on both sides of the aisle, that will tell you we can't afford this government; it is spending too much. Our citizens can't afford their groceries. They can't afford housing. They can't afford their credit card bills. How did it happen?

It happened in here a couple hours ago.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, it happened right here when all but 83 Republicans voted for it. I think 132 Republicans voted for it. On the Democratic side of the aisle, I think it was 207 to 2 voted to continue to spend at higher levels, racking up more debt and more interest on our children and grandchildren.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, did Davy Crockett and William Barret Travis—not that they had them back then—but if they had, did they lose their lives so that a Federal Government could tell them you must buy this car; you cannot buy this gas stove; you will power your home this way or maybe you won't power it at all because we are going to shut off the generation that America invented? Is that what they died for?

These people and the battered bastards of Bastogne died because they wanted us to be free. They wanted the privilege and the honor to run their own lives, to make decisions for themselves. They didn't want a government that decided everything for them. They wanted a government that laid out the framework where each one of them could determine their destiny.

Now, we just voted for the government to determine the destiny right here and in so many other places. It is our duty, Mr. Speaker, and the duty of every Representative who takes the oath, to fight to ensure that the rights to determine your destiny reside with the individual and not an overbearing, out-of-control Federal Government. Today, we failed at that mission.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, those gentlemen at the Alamo, who gave their last full measure of devotion, did it for an idea. Remember what they were doing, right? They were seeking separation from the federal government of Mexico and ultimately did so. A few weeks later, at the battle of San Jacinto,

Texas wins, Texas becomes free, becomes its own nation. They are living freely. They were throwing off the shackles of a burdensome federal government which was, by the way, far less burdensome than this one.

Then they joined a union, the United States of America, under the idea that America would be amenable to Texas joining the Union to be free, to live free in a republican form of government, in a federalist system, where the people of Texas could live free under a limited government of enumerated powers that wasn't indebting its children and grandchildren into oblivion.

That is what we just did. In addition to all of those policies that we punted to the ground, Republicans in this body just voted to support a shattering \$1.66 trillion bill, forsaking every other option we spent a year exploring.

We punted here. We had caps in place that would have spent right there, but we punted. Republicans punted in favor of that because it was the easy path in an election year, and that is what our children inherit.

That is not why they joined the Union. That is not why Texas fought at the Alamo to be free from Mexico and join the Union. They fought so that we could live free.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, free from the bondage of economic slavery. Slavery is in many forms, but when you can't make the choices that you should be able to make as a free person because you can't afford to make the choices because your government is taking from you that which you have earned, that is tyranny, Mr. Speaker. That is tyranny.

With all due respect to many colleagues on both sides of the aisle, we have one set of Members that are seeking the fundamental transformation of America, which used to look like a free country, and we have another side that is doing nothing to stop it.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend for joining me. We came here tonight to celebrate what those men sacrificed for the State of Texas but for our country and the men like them and the women like them over our history. I hope we will do better. We owe it to the American people to do better.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.