

did a chart a couple of weeks ago that showed if the United States went back to a 6 percent handle on U.S. sovereign debt—you would say that is a lot higher than we are at today. Yeah, but go back to the early 2000s, we were right up against 6 percent. We have to realize, in 9 budget years, if we are at 6 percent, it would mean that 45 percent of all U.S. tax collections go just to interest.

We do a chapter here on the effects of obesity on our society, on spending, on longevity, and on family formation. Last year's report came in over \$9 trillion. This year, we even define it more to understand what happens when the single biggest spend in our society could actually be mitigated by helping our brothers and sisters in the country be healthier.

Are we allowed to talk about that, or is that just heresy? Once again, I have to tell the truth.

Over the next 30 years, Social Security and Medicare represent all of the borrowing. It is about \$116 trillion of borrowing.

Discretionary, which we talk about a lot because that is where you find some of the really stupid spending, the shiny objects, is projected to grow slower than tax receipts.

My point is, for everyone out there who wants to be enraged by the White House, enraged by those of us who are trying to find solutions, bring us ideas. Bring us actual math. Stop making crap up. However, if you are going to give us ideas, actually maybe read your subject area first.

You would be amazed how many things we get where, if we just didn't have foreign aid, and then we show the chart that it is a week of borrowing. Understand that you have a country where our baseline is going to be borrowing about \$6 billion a day. How long do you think we can do that?

First, if we can find ways to do it better, faster, and cheaper, read the actual reports that we have been given for a decade that actually have ideas for this and be willing now to do the hard work of just using technology and data and modernizing.

Mr. Speaker, one of the insane things around here, when you meet many of the folks who are in our hallways and demanding more spending, demanding more regulations, demanding more barriers to entry to protect their business model or their bureaucracy, they actually hate the discussion of modernizing.

You are a medical professional. You know what you are doing. The fact of the matter is that there is hope. I don't think there are a lot more years that we can wait. There are ways to do this.

How do we get this body, both our brothers and sisters on the Democratic side—if they would be willing to work with us—saying let's modernize, let's embrace the technology, let's do the things we know that, if we were actually caring—it may not be great politics, but it is really good economics

and really good for the future of this country.

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

#### TARIFFS HURT EVERYONE

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. FOSTER of Illinois was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material for the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I will first thank my colleagues on the Democratic Rapid Response Task Force and Litigation Working Group for helping us with these various Special Order hours discussing the Trump administration's various reckless actions.

Tonight, I rise to bring attention to an issue that really should have all Americans on alert, which are President Trump's tariff policies.

Since the beginning of this administration, American businesses, manufacturers, and families have been stuck in limbo as the Trump administration has repeatedly threatened, then implemented, then paused, then restarted tariffs, creating uncertainty and instability.

The most recent policy shift to a 25 percent tariff on goods from Canada and Mexico has been fraught with delays and exemptions, leaving American businesses, manufacturers, and consumers just stuck in limbo, not knowing how to react and how to make their plans.

In fact, just this morning, Trump doubled planned tariffs on steel and aluminum from Canada to 50 percent. Then, a mere couple hours ago, a spokesman from the White House said that the tariffs on Canada were back down to 25 percent. Who knows?

In true Trump administration fashion, this is complete and utter chaos. Yet, the truth is that these tariffs, no matter if and when they go into full effect, whether it is this week or next month, they will all ultimately have the same result: higher prices for everyday goods and a less competitive U.S. manufacturing sector.

In fact, a business in my district, which makes precision-form steel tubing components, told me that the price of hot rolled steel is up 33 percent since Trump's inauguration in anticipation of these tariffs, and there is just no way that they are going to be able to avoid passing these inflationary price increases on to their customers.

According to an analysis from the Yale Budget Lab, if implemented fully, these tariffs would cost the average

American family between \$1,600 and \$2,000 a year, with working-class families, who can least afford it, being hit the hardest.

Prices would spike across the board. Electronics, like computers, phones, and TVs, could rise by 11 percent; clothing, up by 7.5 percent; cars and auto parts, up by 6 percent; groceries, up 2 percent with fresh produce rising nearly 3 percent. Oil and other energy costs will rise over 1.6 percent, making it more expensive for families to fill up their gas tanks and heat their homes.

Mr. Speaker, Trump is trying to spin these tariffs as something that is solely attacks on foreign companies, but history and macroeconomic facts tell us otherwise. When Trump first imposed tariffs during his first administration, it was not other countries that paid, but it was American consumers and businesses.

Importers passed these cost increases on to their consumers, and domestic producers hiked their own prices in response. This made U.S. manufacturers less competitive worldwide. In fact, in the last administration, Trump's policies put us into a manufacturing recession well before COVID hit.

Beyond hurting hardworking American families, these tariffs threatened the stability of our economy. Analysts from across the political spectrum warned that they could slash 2.3 percent from GDP by 2026, wiping out a lot of projected growth.

Markets also reacted with great uncertainty, as they should. The stocks have dropped, and consumer confidence is cratering.

For American farmers, many of whom are already facing mounting economic challenges, the situation is even more dire. The costs of critical supplies, such as fertilizer, fuel, and equipment, will skyrocket, making it harder for farmers to maintain their operations.

Mr. Speaker, I was just at an event earlier today with corn farmers from the Midwest. For example, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, Canada supplies over 80 percent of our potash imports, which are an essential component for agricultural fertilizer. Guess who the next leading producers are after Canada? Russia, China, and Belarus.

Wouldn't it be better if we could import from our friends in Canada instead of Russia, China, and Belarus, or does our President feel differently?

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In any case, with increased costs, farmers will be forced to either raise prices or absorb the losses, neither of which is sustainable in the long run.

Besides rising costs, farmers are already facing devastating losses in international markets. China, the largest export market for U.S. food products, has already announced retaliatory tariffs on key American agricultural goods, including wheat, corn, soybeans, pork, and dairy products.

Mexico, our largest corn export market, knows what they are going to do because they did it last time. When Trump did various things to insult the people of Mexico and assault their economy, they simply stopped buying corn from the United States and began buying it from Brazil.

Brazil, by the way, gets two crops a year, which, when you tell that to corn farmers in the Midwest, they react. We are in danger of losing these markets permanently if Trump continues what he did in his last go-around on tariffs.

According to the USDA, in fact, the last time President Trump engaged in a trade war, it cost U.S. farmers nearly \$30 billion in lost sales and market disruptions. In an effort to keep the farmers' heads above water, \$30 billion of taxpayer money was sent their way.

That is not what farmers want. For decades, American farmers have worked tirelessly to expand access to foreign markets, ensuring their products reach consumers around the world.

These new tariffs will undo years of progress in expanding those markets, closing off opportunities and shrinking demand for American-grown goods in a foreign market, something which domestic consumption alone cannot compensate for.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, long before coming to Congress and long before my career as a scientist, I started a manufacturing company with my brother. Starting with \$500 from our parents, we built a company that now manufactures over half of all the theater lighting equipment in the United States. It provides over 1,300 manufacturing jobs in the Midwest.

We do hardware, software, painting, wiring harnesses, customer support, everything, and I am very proud that we have kept those good manufacturing jobs in the United States.

That is why boosting the U.S. manufacturing and creating manufacturing jobs here has always been a top priority of mine and why I was so horrified at the damage done to U.S. manufacturing by the last set of Trump tariffs.

I watched with deep concern as the first Trump administration's tariffs and our other trade policies put us in a manufacturing recession a year before COVID even started.

Once again, Trump is pursuing a failed economic policy that is going to do nothing to bring jobs back, but instead it will drive up costs, kill growth, and undermine U.S. manufacturing, the very sector that he claims to protect.

Manufacturers will be hit with soaring costs. Many U.S. manufacturers rely on imported raw materials, such as steel, aluminum, and auto parts from Canada and Mexico. These tariffs will increase costs across the supply chains, making it harder to produce goods economically and much harder for U.S. manufacturers to export their goods in a competitive world environment.

Contrary to what Trump and the Republicans are trying to say, higher costs mean fewer jobs. When manufacturers face rising production expenses, they are forced to either pass those costs on to consumers, further driving up inflation, or cut jobs and production. Studies have shown that Trump's previous tariffs led to job losses, not gains, in the manufacturing sector.

American manufacturers will, once again, struggle to compete globally. By making essential inputs more expensive, Trump is weakening U.S. manufacturers against foreign competitors who are not burdened with these artificial price hikes.

Not to mention, manufacturers will likely be hit by retaliatory tariffs when trying to export their goods to the countries that President Trump has targeted.

This is not America First; this is America last in the global economy.

The last trade war was a disaster. Under Trump's first round of tariffs, manufacturers suffered as input prices soared, supply chains were disrupted, and retaliatory tariffs from other nations crushed U.S. exports.

This time the consequences could be even worse.

The truth is, there are no winners in trade wars, only those left to bear the burden of higher costs, lost jobs, and economic instability.

Instead of strengthening our economy, Trump and his Republican allies are needlessly putting it at risk, gambling with the livelihoods of American families.

When the U.S. is threatened with a recession, you don't have to take my word for it, you can read the front page of *The Wall Street Journal*. It will be those policies who are to blame.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to be joined by my colleague, Congresswoman MELANIE STANSBURY. As a Representative of the southern border State, New Mexico, she knows all too well, the importance of fair trade with Mexico for our Nation's economy and especially for working families' wallets.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY).

Real-world Impacts on Communities of Actions Taken by Elon Musk and Donald Trump

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for convening this Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the real-world impacts of what is happening right now in our Federal Government. With the dismantling of Federal agencies, the free fall of our economy, and the impacts that Elon Musk and Donald Trump are having on our communities, what is happening right now is not normal. It is impacting our communities in ways that many do not even understand.

Right now, real people are hurting. They are scared. They don't know what is going to happen. Today, in my office, I met with members of a Tribal council

and leaders from a Tribe in New Mexico who came to visit me.

Like others, they shared stories about the people in the community who are frightened about what is happening. Teachers and educators and Tribal schools who have been fired without any explanation, critical Federal funds that are on hold. When they went to meet with the Department of the Interior today, they were told that even those who are in charge of the very programs that they were meeting them about didn't know what was happening.

Back home people are frightened. They are scared. They don't know if they are going to lose their Social Security, their Medicaid, or the access to lifesaving care.

A few days ago, I met with the largest food bank in the State of New Mexico. They distribute food to hundreds of food pantries, churches, homeless shelters, and individual families across the State. They told me that if the cuts to food assistance go through that Republicans are proposing in their budget framework, that the number of families, and especially our children and seniors who are currently facing food insecurity, will double.

There is not enough support, resources, and infrastructure in the State of New Mexico to meet the need if these programs are cut. Our food system will do everything that it can to support our communities, but it will be more severe than even during the pandemic.

Every day I am hearing from constituents in my district who have lost their jobs. These are real people, real New Mexicans. Thousands of Americans are being fired every single day by this administration for no reason. These are not faceless people, but real members of our communities.

A Tribal schoolteacher was told in the middle of the school day that she was being fired for no reason, after she had taught for years, to pack up her things and return home in front of her students. These are students who don't know if they are going to be able to finish the school year and graduate. There were no answers. There was no explanation. There was no follow up for how she is going to support her son and her disabled mother at home.

A veteran, who was on medical leave, returned to their job at the VA on a Monday only to find out that they had been locked out of their email, and inside that email was a nameless, faceless dismissal, letting them know that they had been fired for no reason. A dedicated public servant who drove 60 miles to work every single day to the VA hospital to serve their fellow veterans was never even notified as to the reason they were terminated. It was just a mass email sent to thousands of Federal employees across the United States.

Just like the other veterans across my district who lost their jobs over the last several days, another veteran who

served in the Army Reserves from 2001 to 2010 also received that same nameless, faceless email from Elon Musk. A veteran, who received an Army Achievement Medal, a Combat Action Badge, and other medals and achievements over the course of their service, was fired with devastating impacts to their family not only financially but emotionally.

These are the real people being impacted by this administration, an administration that seems to have no regard whatsoever for the thousands of Americans who are literally losing their livelihoods every day as a result.

While they take on these actions, while they dismantle these Federal agencies, while they withhold the funds that literally thousands of organizations across the country depend upon to provide vital services across our communities, while they fire these thousands of Federal public servants who have dedicated their life to service, including our veterans and members of the military, they are giving themselves contracts to replace the very programs and create new services that will give them more wealth like Elon Musk at the FAA.

They are talking about monetizing HUD programs. That is right. Voucher programs that our lowest income family members and members of our communities depend on, they want to turn it into a monetary program that makes private companies money. They want to turn over mortgage markets to their crypto buddies. Well, that sounds like a good idea, right?

They are doing all of this against the backdrop of trade wars that are not only endangering the American economy, but endangering the lives of millions of Americans and making it more expensive.

Now the thing I ask myself is: What is the end goal of all of this? Seriously, what is the end goal?

Donald Trump campaigned for the last 2 years on lowering costs. He told the American people: If you elect me, I will make it cheaper and easier to live in America. I ask my fellow Americans, is it cheaper than it was 6 weeks ago in America? If you have been grocery shopping over the last several weeks, you are seeing that prices are higher than they have ever been.

We are not just talking about the price of eggs and meat. It is everything: the price of housing, the price of groceries, the price of energy. Not only have prices not gone down, they have gone up, and now because of these tariffs and trade wars, we know that everything is going to get exponentially more expensive.

The raw materials that fuel American manufacturing and construction will get more expensive. Produce and food will get more expensive. Energy will get more expensive.

What are they doing? Why are they doing this? Why are my colleagues enabling this administration to harm the American people, enabling this admin-

istration to put harmful policies in place that are making it not only more expensive for Americans but tanking our economy? What is this all about? To what end?

I ask my colleagues honestly, Mr. Speaker, to what end is all of this? What is the point of hurting real Americans?

These policies are not making life better for real Americans. It is really about stealing from the working people of this country to make the wealthier more wealthy.

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Mr. Speaker, if you need any more evidence of that, then all you have to do is look at the budget framework that they passed here in this Chamber 2 weeks ago.

A couple of weeks ago, when they passed this budget, they pretended like we are just trying to root out waste, fraud, and abuse and that we are going to take those savings and reinvest it into tax breaks to help the American people. As the last couple of weeks have passed, they are not even trying to hide it anymore.

Over the weekend, Republicans were on a blitz across the news media, saying that they were going to gut Medicaid. They are talking about it openly now. They are going to cut hundreds of millions of dollars from the basic programs that sustain Americans. Over the weekend, Elon Musk talked openly about gutting Social Security. This is their plan.

What are they going to do with all of that "savings"? They are going to use it to give permanent tax breaks to billionaires. That is it. That is what all of this is in service of: taking from the people who have spent their lives serving this country, proudly serving this Nation, proudly working to put food on the table and a roof over their head for their families, and they are going to give that money to billionaires. That is what this is all about. It hurts my heart.

My colleagues passed their budget resolution, their budget CR, this afternoon, and the vast majority of them are on planes back to their districts, where they are not going to hold town-halls. Their leadership told them not to because they don't want to hear from the people who are unhappy and being hurt by this harm to our communities.

I have to ask my colleagues: Why are they even here? What is this all in service of? Go home and represent the people, and come back here and have a backbone to stand up for the Constitution and the people of this country because real people are being hurt.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative STANSBURY for speaking today and for sharing how some of Trump's policies are going to harm her constituents.

In her State and near her district are national security workers, atomic scientists at Sandia and Los Alamos National Labs, who were fired and then

unfired and are still being threatened with being fired.

I am a scientist. I know a lot of people who are in that situation. Damage is done to our national security when you tell people who are working at a national lab, especially a national security lab, that it is not a safe place in terms of being able to depend on an income to raise their families. That does damage to our national security that can never be undone.

It is not a small deal, and the fact that some 23-year-old kid with a software background has decided they know more about the workforce that we need to make sure our nuclear weapons are safe and effective is about as bad government as you can ever imagine.

I would also like to echo Ms. STANSBURY's questions about why does Trump do this. Why does he actually do this? The President's reputation as a great businessman is based on making a series of one-off deals. He is a real estate dealmaker, not a manufacturer, not a businessman who has real customers.

He thinks he has done a good deal when he uses all the leverage in his negotiation to make sure that he has really rooked his counterpart, his customer, to the extent possible in his real estate transactions.

I am very different. I am a manufacturer. The last thing you want if you are a manufacturer is a dissatisfied customer. It is a completely different mindset.

The problem occurs when Donald Trump views our allies as people to be rooked, people to be insulted, people to use, to leverage to get the most out of the current situation with them instead of trying to develop the long-term business relationship that is really the basis of the long-term economic security of our country.

That is my best understanding of why the President does these things because he certainly has his advisers that let him know that his policies are going to have disastrous economic effects.

In fact, just a couple of nights ago, in an interview, President Trump declined to rule out the possibility of a recession, which I imagine his competent advisers have been shouting in his ear for weeks now.

As I said earlier, there are no winners in a trade war. There are only those who are left to bear the burden of higher costs, lost jobs, and economic instability.

Instead of strengthening our economy, Trump and his Republican allies are needlessly putting it at risk, gambling with the livelihoods of American families. If the U.S. indeed enters a recession, we will know who to blame.

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

**PUTTING AMERICA FIRST BORDER SECURITY POLICIES BACK IN PLACE**

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona was recognized for 30 minutes.)

**GENERAL LEAVE**

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of West Virginia). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to be here tonight with my colleagues who are also members of the Border Security Caucus.

For 4 years, we have stood here and exposed the open-border policies of the Biden-Harris administration. For 4 years, we have seen what happens when the America First border security policies that President Trump had put in place were thrown out.

In just over 1 month, we have seen what happens when those policies are put back in place. Since President Trump took office, ICE agents have arrested more than 20,000 illegal aliens. That is just in 1 month. By comparison, Joe Biden only had 33,000 at-large arrests for the entire year of 2024.

When Joe Biden was in charge, over 300,000 illegal aliens crossed the border in just 1 month. In President Trump's first month, illegal crossings did not even reach 10,000. The actual number was 8,400.

Whereas Biden let all those people into the country without proper vetting, some of which were known criminals and terrorists that we are now trying to find, under President Trump, people who illegally crossed the border are stopped and immediately detained or removed.

Due to President Biden's catch and release policies, every State had the pathologies of a border State. Immediately after taking office, President Trump charged ICE officers with cleaning up streets across the country by detaining the illegal aliens that Joe Biden had released into the country.

While they were attempting to prosecute President Trump for bogus charges in multiple jurisdictions, the Biden regime was releasing actual criminals into every city in America.

Tonight, we are going to be exposing the Biden-Harris administration's open-border policies and President Trump's work to remove them. We will highlight the tireless work of ICE agents tasked with arresting some of the worst individuals who have invaded our country.

Despite being demonized by the mainstream media and organized campaigns to interfere with and prevent arrests, including by exposing personal information of agents, in just 1 month,

those agents have taken thousands of violent and malevolent offenders off of our streets. In just 1 month, President Trump has put an end to the endless invasion of our communities by illegal aliens.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), my co-chairman of the Border Security Caucus.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS), my good friend and co-chair. I really appreciate him having tonight's very important Special Order.

The truth is simple. The Biden administration threw open the floodgates, allowing murderers, rapists, and chaos to pour into our communities, all in pursuit of political power. They knew exactly what they were doing.

Securing the border was never an impossibility, as they let the Nation and us believe. It was always a choice.

For the last 4 years, the wrong choice was deliberately made. We were told that enforcement wouldn't work, that the crisis was simply too big to fix, but those were lies meant to cover up the fact that an open border was exactly what they wanted to do.

They dismantled every tool that worked, inviting criminals to walk right in. We saw the consequences play out in the most destructive ways imaginable. Mr. Speaker, 15 million illegals entered under the Biden administration's watch.

Tonight, you will hear about the evils that were unleashed on our neighborhoods by the Biden administration, resulting in death and destruction of innocent American lives.

How many more lives must be lost? How many more families must grieve before they admit their open-border agenda is destroying this country? There are 100,000 Americans dying per year from deadly Mexican cartel and Chinese drugs that have come in over our open border.

There have been hundreds of thousands of lost children from the child sex trade and human trafficking. There have been murders, rapes, and pillaging from illegal alien gangs and swamped public schools, hospitals, and public services.

Here is the good news, though. The days of lawlessness are over because, on day one of the Donald Trump administration, we finally have a strong leader in the White House. Just like that, the border was shut down. All it took was that leadership and the will to enforce the law. The message was sent loud and clear: America is not open for lawbreakers anymore.

Illegal crossings have plummeted. Deportations are back in full force. As co-chair of the Border Security Caucus, I am committed to keeping these dangerous criminals off of our streets.

Working hand in hand with President Trump, Vice President VANCE, and leaders like Tom Homan, we are making sure that child traffickers, drug smugglers, and gang members are rounded up and sent packing back to

where they belong. We are kicking them out by the thousands, just like we should have been doing all along these last 4 years.

This is how you put America first: You don't make excuses; you act. You don't let criminals run free; you lock them up or send them home. You don't leave the border wide open; you shut it down and take control.

The American people deserve safety, not suffering. They deserve law and order, not chaos. They deserve leadership that protects them, not one that absolutely betrays them.

That is what Donald Trump and Tom Homan are delivering to us right now, and they are just getting started.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman who has seen in his own district time and time again the abuse caused by these out-of-control illegal aliens.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY), my friend who is also on the Border Security Caucus.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I thank the gentlemen who have led the Border Security Caucus, Mr. BABIN and Mr. BIGGS. I thank them for their leadership on this issue. It is as a result of their efforts that they continue to deliver this message to the American people of what a disaster this was going on at our southern border that caused this to be the number one issue in the past election before the American people.

In particular, I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS). The first trip I did after being sworn in, in May 2020, was to go down to the southern border on a trip that he led with many of us, as he did so many times with so many Members. I don't know if there are hardly any Members on the Republican side that he didn't lead to the southern border to deliver the message.

It is there that I got to meet people like Sheriff Mark Lamb from Pinal County in Arizona and Sheriff Mark Dannels down in Cochise County, who back in 2020 talked about how the border was becoming secure, that at the end of the Trump administration's first term, the border was becoming more secure. We visited them a year later, and they told us that it was all deteriorating simply because there was a change in the Presidency. I thank them for their leadership in regard to this. They have done a service to the American people. Hopefully, we can fix this for the future.

We just had a hearing this morning with a sheriff from one of the counties in Texas, a border county there, as well as one of the leaders of the Border Patrol union. They told us that it is night and day since January 20. Thank God we have new leadership in the White House because the border is once again secured.

I would just say, remember when the media and Democrats told us that President Biden needed a bill to fix the border? That was a lie. As President