

proud to don my ao dai today, which is traditional garb that is worn to celebrate special occasions such as Tet, the Vietnamese lunar new year. The ao dai represents our cultural identity and heritage.

Tet is a time to reflect on the past, to embrace new beginnings, and to eat a lot of really good food. It is a vibrant celebration brimming with parades, festivals, and firecrackers.

What is more, it is a celebration of family, tradition, and the enduring spirit of hope. It is a time to express kindness and well-wishes to each other.

So as the Vietnamese saying goes: "Chúc mừng năm mới. An khang thịnh vượng và an lạc.""

(English translation of Vietnamese is as follows:

"Happy new year, wishing you peace and prosperity, and may all your wishes come true.")

□ 1630

ELECTED WITH A MANDATE

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, President Trump was elected with a mandate to improve the daily lives of hardworking Americans, a mandate to lower housing costs, make groceries more affordable, and help families get ahead and stay ahead.

Let's take a moment to highlight what the President has done for the people during his first week in office: ended birthright citizenship, a guaranteed right under the 14th Amendment; terminated diversity, equity, and inclusion programs; withdrew the United States from the Paris agreement; renamed the Gulf of Mexico; raised the cost of prescription drugs for seniors on Medicare and Medicaid; pardoned 1,500 convicted felons who stormed our Capitol and violently assaulted our police officers on January 6, 2021; and created a special fake department for shadow president Elon Musk.

Wait. None of those executive orders lowered costs, let alone meaningfully improved the lives of the American people.

I urge the President to stop treating the White House like his Twitter account and get to work fixing the problems he was elected to solve.

RECOGNIZING UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS CHEER TEAM

(Ms. LEE of Nevada asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an incredible achievement by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas cheerleading team, who once again won the All Girl Division 1A Game Day Championship title last week.

This isn't the first time these amazing women have taken the top spot in

one of the most prestigious championships for cheerleading. With this year's performance, an iconic Elvis-inspired homage to our city, they have reaffirmed themselves as not just national champions, but a national powerhouse for years to come.

I congratulate every cheerleader, coach, and family member who made this success possible.

Go Rebels.

CELEBRATING ROGER DESJARDINS ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

(Mr. AMO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a happy 100th birthday to my constituent, Mr. Roger Desjardins.

Originally from Cumberland, Rhode Island, Mr. Desjardins served in the 43rd Infantry and saw combat during World War II as a machine gunner.

Honorably discharged in 1946, he worked as a pipefitter and a plumber in North Providence before retiring nearly four decades ago.

That doesn't mean age has slowed him down. At his centennial celebration last week, he showed off some karate moves, walking cane and all, that he practices to stay in shape.

Mr. Speaker, Roger is a quintessential Rhode Islander: feisty, selfless, and full of hope and good cheer. When asked what his birthday wish is, he simply said: to live another year or two.

It is my honor to recognize him today on the floor of the people's House so that his story and his dedicated service to our Nation may be remembered for all time.

A DIRECT ATTACK

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

Mr. TURNER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on September 24, 1965, President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed an executive order which ensures equal opportunity for people of color and women; prohibits Federal contractors from engaging in discriminatory practices in recruitment, hiring, training, and discriminating based on race, sex, religion, or national origin.

This executive order was signed during the period of transformative progress, 1 year after the Civil Rights Act of 1964, a few months after the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and 2 years after Dr. Martin Luther King's iconic "I Have a Dream" speech.

Yet, just 2 days after we honored the legacy of Dr. King this week, President Trump, with the mere stroke of a pen, seeks to undo what has been in place for nearly 60 years. His actions aim to undermine the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and threaten the livelihood of thousands of Federal workers and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I could not sleep last night, and these executive orders by the President are a direct attack. We must stand up and speak.

IN HONOR OF GUS WILLIAMS

(Mr. LATIMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Gus Williams, a basketball great and New York 16th Congressional District native from Mt. Vernon, New York. Gus was born October 10, 1953, in Mt. Vernon, and his basketball talent made him one of the greatest players to ever hail from my hometown.

On the basketball court, Gus got the nickname "The Wizard" for his acrobatic style, speed, and incredibly accurate midrange jump shots—none of which I have.

He led the Mt. Vernon Knights high school basketball team to a 22-1 season, winning State championship and State Player of the Year in 1971.

He went to the University of South California, where he was Most Valuable Player in 1975, went onto an NBA career with the Golden State Warriors, and then signed with the Seattle SuperSonics. In 1979, Gus led the NBA SuperSonics to their NBA title, averaging 28 points in their final games. The Sonics retired Gus' No. 1 jersey in 2004.

I am grateful that I got to go to high school with Gus Williams, to have seen his magic and his skill in person before the rest of the world had the opportunity.

He will be deeply missed in the Mt. Vernon community, but his memory will live on.

HONORING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

(Ms. STEVENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This past Monday, our Nation celebrated MLK Day, a powerful reminder of the ongoing effort for equality and justice and the profound impact an individual can make.

It is also a day spent volunteering and a day of action. I am so deeply proud of the schools across Oakland County, Michigan, who engaged in volunteer activities.

I also would like to share some of Dr. King's powerful words that resonate not only with me, but I believe speak to the moments that we find ourselves in today:

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

"The arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice."

"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."

"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Lastly, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'"

In service, we honor Dr. King's legacy, and we commit to his written words from the Birmingham jail that we continue to strive toward justice.

BEACON OF PROSPERITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, tonight is going to be a little thick, so I apologize to everyone, but we are going to actually try something a little bit broader. We are going to actually play economist.

I am going to try actually to walk through three or four themes here of why what we must do is so difficult, why it absolutely has to happen, and the truth about the math. Let's have some fun here.

Since I know everyone around here is a genius and we spend lots of time reading difficult things, I am sure every Member of Congress got their hand on the latest McKinsey report that came out a few days ago that actually walked through in beautiful detail what is happening in the industrialized world with the lack of young people. Okay. Let's walk through this.

Idiots like me have been coming behind this microphone for almost a decade talking about the morality of prosperity. I don't care if you are on the left or right, but having a society that grows and becomes prosperous and becomes more and more productive and can provide better things is moral, but, also, why is it so hard?

Look, this was done by our own CBO, taking updates from the data from the Census Bureau. In 8 years, the United States has more deaths than births. Last year, we had 17 States that had more deaths than births.

Okay. If Members read through, the term now has become "absence of young people." There is lots of crazy discussions. There are entire books. I have all these things on my shelves about natalist policies and how many countries have tried to encourage higher fertility rates, and all failed. There really is no success in the entire world.

They have been able to move forward some of the fertility rates spiking up, and then they go back and fall back to the mean. It is the nature of wealth. It is the nature of modern societies, but then my colleagues come to me and say: David, you are on Ways and Means, chaired the Joint Economic Committee, so all of these economists

work for you. Show me how we are going to have 3 percent GDP growth every year.

I can show Members how to do it. I just need my colleagues to understand that the United States is better off than so many countries, but the fact of the matter is we are having fewer children than countries like France.

In 8 years, we have more deaths than births. Remember the first year of economics class where they walked through the formula and said, well, population growth, then capital expenditures for plant and equipment that are more productive, then spikes in technology. That is how the wealth of a nation is built. We are losing one of the things.

When people like me walk behind these microphones, my colleagues need to hear coming out of their mouths: I am willing to actually deal with the reality of how do we make capital investments in equipment that makes us more productive? How do we encourage the synthetic biology that makes us not only live longer, but able to survive and do well and enjoy life? How do we actually deal with not being fearful of AI and artificial intelligence, but use that to make this another American century? I can't make the math work without the adoption of labor substitutes.

I am going to actually show something here that seems to make people mad when I get to it. Let's wait, I am going to actually make a pitch that what are the two extraordinary privileges of this country?

Okay. Members are going to hear monetarists come behind the microphone all the time and say that people want to use the U.S. dollar and that people must use the U.S. dollar to borrow, to trade in, and to hold assets.

As an economist, what is actually more valuable than having the world reserve currency is that smart people, entrepreneurs, and people with wealth want to invest their lives, their time, and their talents in the United States.

We hold the two greatest extraordinary privileges from a worldwide economist. We have to start understanding the math and what we are up against because it is not us.

Start to take a look at what is going on. I know some of these charts are almost impossible to read, but the basic point of many of these is we have all talked about, in a couple of years, all of the baby boomers are 65 and up, and we have this huge population bubble.

We hate to say this because we get booed at our townhalls when we say this: The fact of the matter is, in the next 10 years, almost 100 percent of U.S. debt is interest and the growth of the cost of Medicare.

How many years have we known that baby boomers were going to turn 65? It has been 65 years, but we didn't plan for it. We didn't set it aside. One thing we weren't ready for as a society is, in 1990, fertility rates started to roll over.

As the McKinsey report goes up and down, it is the absence of young people. Now make an economy grow.

Some of the points I am going to try to make here is this one. I need people to think. There was the kerfuffle last week when Elon Musk and some of the others got into the H-1B visas, bringing talent into the country. I am actually not even sure I liked the H-1 process. I would like to move maybe to a talent-based system.

The entire industrialized world is going through things very similar to us. China's numbers look—it is the craziest charts you are ever going to see. It is like a boom.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the world competed for hydrocarbons, oil. We remember the oil.

The last decade, we sort of battled for where we could have supplies of rare earths. Some of the smartest economists who actually do demographics are now saying that the industrialized world is going to knife each other for smart people.

Now, maybe a smart person is the great carpenter or the synthetic biologist, but we need to start being honest with each other that my colleagues want us, particularly my economic team, to say: Build us ideas. Build us a plan. As we get ready to do reconciliation, do the things that provide us the growth so we can still be Americans, that sort of beacon of prosperity.

□ 1645

Mr. Speaker, you have to understand that, in 8 years, there will be more deaths than births.

Are we going to be willing to do very difficult things and move to a talent-based immigration system that doesn't care about your race, your gender, who you cuddle with, or anything else? It cares about the talent.

I have actually done entire presentations here where I have shown that what happened at the border over the last 4 years will make the working poor poorer in this country. It is math. It is not my opinion. I am not demagoguing. It is math.

In part of our society, we have what is called the quartiles. I sort of despise that term. It is people who didn't graduate high school, so what they do economically is sell their willingness to work. They go out and hang drywall. They bust their backsides, and then, tomorrow, they are competing against millions of other people with the same skill set. Look at how our economy works and the fact that, let's be brutal, populations under a certain income will receive services from our society because we are a compassionate society.

When you start to see a talent-based immigration system, you have people here because of the productivity they bring to society. It turns out that when you look at their career, they pay a boatload of taxes and actually help us grow. We need to deal with the math, and the fact of the matter is, we look over and over at these things.

I am just using Japan because it is easy. Japan has almost 300 percent