

How about you stop paying attention to the stock market and start paying attention to people's grocery bills?

We are in dangerous times where we have a President who could impose these tariffs on food at any moment. That is why retailers are already raising prices. They don't believe Trump in terms of a 30-day pause. They are raising the prices on all of these food products today.

We need to be very clear, Mr. Trump: Learn Economics 101. Stop raising grocery prices for ordinary Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

SUPPORTING DEI

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I originally came to the floor today because I was dismayed by the President's continued assault on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The Department of Defense, the State Department, and countless other agencies have been instructed to no longer recognize Black History Month as part of a broad order to pause all activities and events related to "special observances." It is because the President is trying to scrub our government and our country of its history and its diversity.

Our diversity is our power, and the President is threatened by that power. That is why he wants our country and our government to fit his narrow-minded view of what it should be like.

We know who President Trump is. Barely coded racist rhetoric is his standard practice. The disgusting comments the President made, blaming the tragic crash at Reagan National Airport on DEI, were just the latest example. It is sickening, inflammatory, and pathetic.

We should all be clear-eyed about what the President is doing. While the President has picked up right where he left off with his racist and xenophobic attacks, it is part of a broader mission by him and shadow president Elon Musk to dismantle and destroy our government.

Since last Friday, Elon's acolytes, none of whom are government employees and by all appearances have no understanding of how our government even works, have been installed and have taken over at the State Department, the U.S. Treasury, the Office of Personnel Management, the General Services Administration, and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Here is what they have done. They have downloaded the most sensitive personal information of millions of Americans to private servers. They have taken possession of all financial and personal information of everyone who does business with the Federal

Government. They are taking control of security systems, personnel files, and intelligence reports that pertain to thousands upon thousands of U.S. Government workers operating overseas, many of whom are in classified roles.

This is all to say that we are witnessing a coup of our government. Without any legal authority, robber baron Elon Musk has embedded himself in our government, unlawfully obtained information that affects millions of Americans, and tasked himself with carrying out President Trump's grievances against his political enemies, not to mention the President has already fired over a dozen January 6 Federal prosecutors, begun to scrutinize the perceived loyalty of thousands of rank-and-file FBI agents, and invalidated the contracts of thousands of government employees.

Again, we are witnessing the power grab of two men who idolize dictators and who are now playing at being one.

This is a coup. The American people will not stand for this. They will not. I have heard from my constituents who have called my office, expressing their outrage at the criminality and corruption. I plan to do everything I can at every opportunity to call out the President and Elon Musk for what they are doing.

I ask my Republican colleagues to actively examine what is going on, to sincerely ask themselves if this is acceptable. Throughout our country's history, our government has served to assist the people in their times of need, to act in service of the common good, and to work for the people. The President and Elon Musk are trying to make a mockery of that purpose. They are actively perverting that purpose to make the government act as a tool of retribution and to work against the people, specifically against their political enemies.

That is not why I serve.

Service and leadership are not about bending government to your own personal will. It is about civic duty and public service. It is about good people doing the right thing.

I ask my Republican colleagues if they really think the President and Elon Musk are doing the right thing. It is time for the people of this House to speak up.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

ENHANCE SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about Social Security, the Nation's number one antipoverty program for the elderly and the Nation's number one antipoverty program for children.

Every Member of this 435-person body is impacted by Social Security. It

might surprise you, Mr. Speaker, that Social Security has not been enhanced in over 50 years.

For what purpose is Mr. Trump's latest proposal, and that of Elon Musk, to acquire all the data and information on the more than 70 million Social Security recipients and Medicare and Medicaid recipients?

Americans should be outraged. Clearly, one would hope that people in this body are outraged enough to speak up on behalf of their citizens. Why? More than 10,000 baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security. More than 70 million people across this Nation receive Social Security, a governmental insurance program that has never missed a payment. Yet, Congress hasn't enhanced the program in over 50 years.

God help us, but Mr. Musk has plans for Social Security and Medicare. They have been charged with cutting \$2 trillion out of the budget. The three largest items in the Federal budget are Social Security, Medicare, and defense. Where is Mr. Musk going with this, and why does he need the data and information on every American citizen and more than 70 million Social Security recipients?

I hope that you, Mr. Speaker, are mentioning this to your constituents in your district. You have over 115,000 people who get pensions from Social Security; 88,000 retirees; 10,000-plus disabled workers, most of them veterans; 5,486 widows; 2,509 spouses; and 8,000 children.

Mr. Speaker, what most Members don't realize is that this is the number one economic development plan for every single congressional district. Why? Every district, on average, gets \$2 million a month from Social Security because it goes directly to those constituents, Mr. Speaker, who I just named.

Where do they spend that money, Mr. Speaker? Right back in their own districts, right back at the local pharmacy, at the grocery store, on heating and cooling their homes, and on putting gas in their tanks.

This is what the American people are facing.

When are people in this body going to have the guts to stand up and take a vote for their constituents, people who haven't seen a benefit enhancement in more than 50 years?

Do we think the cost of living has changed a little? Is it okay that 5 million of our fellow Americans get checks below the poverty level, having paid into a system all their lives? Is it okay that most of them are women because they have spent less time in the workforce while taking care of their children? When they were in the workforce, they were earning less.

Rise up, America. Rise up, Mr. Speaker. Join us in saying: Let's have a vote. Let's send what our constituents need. We haven't done the job in more than 50 years. Now is the time to act.

Mr. Trump says that he is going to make sure he eliminates taxes on Social Security. That is another major problem. Of course, we have that in a bill that is before this body. The difference is we pay for it. Mr. Musk and Mr. Trump don't want to pay for it because what they want to do with that money is provide another tax break for the wealthy on the backs of everyday working Americans who have done this throughout their lifetimes.

Mr. Speaker, I hope everybody in this Chamber finds some spine, stands up, and takes a vote on Social Security.

COMING TO CROSSROADS OF A CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise because we are at the crossroads of a constitutional crisis.

While I represent and fight for tens of thousands of Federal workers and contractors in my district, this affects every single American.

There is a Treasury takeover. Every man, woman, and child's most personal information is in the hands of people who have no real vetting or formal role in our government. They have control of the Federal Government's payment systems. They can now decide which programs, projects, and contractors get funded. That is unconstitutional.

Federal agencies authorized by Congress are being cut without any input from Congress. That is unconstitutional.

All Federal spending was frozen with little warning to Americans. That is unconstitutional.

The Federal workforce is being intimidated and decimated before our eyes, which is illegal.

We are damaging our country in a way that could take years, if not decades, to recover.

Cutting USAID undermines our standing in the world and keeps us less safe. Cutting funding for agencies and nonprofits that feed kids or run essential services will make us less healthy and less secure. Firing Federal workers and contractors will lead to a brain drain in our government and hurt every single function of our government.

This is not rightsizing or downsizing of government. This is dumb-sizing of government. How do I know this? I know these Federal workers and contractors personally. I see them at the grocery store, farmers market, and school drop-off. They take an oath to our country to keep our government running and, most importantly, keep us safe. They often take lower salaries out of a sense of duty to their Federal citizens.

They don't care who is President. Why? Federal food safety should not stop because of who is President. Disaster relief should not stop because of

who is President. Veterans' benefits should not stop because of who is President.

Federal workers make America work. They make America great.

At a townhall last night in my district, these Federal workers shared their stories. Their stories were frightening and should alarm all Americans. We had one constituent who is a nuclear scientist. We can't get rid of a nuclear scientist and expect to replace that expertise ever again.

This is a constitutional crisis. What are we going to do about it? That is what the people want to know.

There must be real oversight and accountability for this administration, especially when there are dangerous incursions into Congress' powers and independence as a legislative branch. We must introduce legislation, hold hearings, speak out, and do everything possible to make sure that this stops.

I am introducing legislation to protect Federal workers, prevent unnecessary agency relocations, and stop unconstitutional actions that undermine our democracy and the separation of powers.

If citizens are listening at home, they should know that their voice matters. When people spoke up about the Federal freeze, they backed down. Our constituents should speak out, use their voice, and push back because the time for action is now. Join me.

□ 1230

TARIFFS AND TRADE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the people of northwest Ohio and the Great Lakes region, which is heavily industrial and agricultural, overwhelmingly oppose the Trump administration's ill-conceived trade war with Canada, Ohio's top fair trade partner and our largest fair trade partner.

Apparently there is a plan for a 1-month pause with this tariff relationship with Canada, but remember, Canada has been critical to the automotive industry, the lumber industry, the oil industry, the truck industry, every single industry you can think of, and now we are not sure what is going to happen in 1 month.

There is an old expression that says don't break what doesn't need fixing. There is another stronger adage that says don't shoot yourself in the foot.

The administration's imposition of tariffs across our Great Lakes region adds up to a big lollapalooza-sized mistake. It will cause prices to rise, unemployment to increase, and act as a throttle to economic progress across our Great Lakes region. Rising tariffs will put a brake on our region's economy and strong, two-way trade partnership. They put a 25 percent tariff at the northern border, right, but with China it is 10 percent. That is 25 per-

cent among free traders and 10 percent on those that don't exercise in a manner that creates free trade.

Indeed, the U.S.-Canadian trade partnership is the strongest economic growth engine in our part of the American continent. With meager help from Washington, except for President Eisenhower's investment in our region after World War II, our region's economic growth has been hard-fought, especially recently.

Far too often, firms here have been disinvested and traded away by Wall Street, Big Tech, and Washington bigwigs who don't understand our region's free market struggle. All those billionaires simply love shipping our jobs to penny-wage nations, and I am truly surprised President Trump has joined them.

Great Lakes region economic growth across the U.S.-Canadian border has been hard-fought, not exploitative. Middle-class jobs have grown here, albeit far too slowly, and tariffs will cause a downdraft on economic growth, rising prices, and lost jobs.

The investor class has been shipping out our jobs everywhere in the world. Growing jobs in our mid-continent freshwater economy requires cooperation, not upending U.S.-Canadian relationships that have taken decades to build in both our nations. Frankly, both coasts have made it harder for us to ship through the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway. This is wrong. We should be allowed to compete fairly. Let the President go to that thought.

Our Nation should stand for free trade among free people. Imposing tariffs on North American companies that are struggling to meet penny-wage global competition is driving our economy backwards.

President Trump should study the trade numbers. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows that of the United States' top 15 trading partners, Canada is the fourth smallest contributor to the U.S. trade deficit compared to countries like China, Mexico, and Vietnam, each of whom engage in unfair and exploitative labor practices.

Focus on the nations with whom we have mammoth trade deficits, like China. Don't hurt North America. Rethink the administration's costly, unnecessary burden on our Great Lakes region which the President carried. The President should be helping us, not hurting us.

As a result of Trump's tariffs, the prices and costs of doing business already are rising. Layoffs will occur. You will see more foreign cars flood into our country as China will increase shipments of its low-wage produced goods.

Across our Great Lakes States of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, New York, and Minnesota, let our people remember President Trump's ill-conceived tariff edict. President Trump is driving up costs in our trusted two-way U.S.-Canada trade relationship. Our Great