

He observed that the liberal belief that criminal justice is solely for rehabilitation instead of incapacitation and deterrence is rooted in "a belief that there was nothing permanent or absolute about any man's nature . . . and that by changing his environment, we could permanently change man and usher in a great new era."

President Reagan was right. There is a place appropriately for forgiveness and rehabilitation, but there is not a place for allowing the rampant, lawless, and dangerous to be walking among our families and our communities, and our borders to be wide open to endanger our societies for this crazy notion of some utopian nonsense or, worse yet, a purposeful use of this tool for political purposes.

I applaud the President for what he is doing for trying to secure our country.

I call on my colleagues to band together to expose to the American people these organized efforts that are undermining our security and our way of life—targeted specifically at us. It is high time that we expose it. It is high time that we do something about it.

If we learned anything from what we saw unfold that resulted in the murder of Charlie, it is that we go find the people that are just as guilty as the young man that pulled that trigger, the people who are just as guilty because they created that environment. They fomented the radicalization and the creation of an environment where that occurred knowingly, knowingly destabilizing our society in the process.

#### WHY I CAME TO CONGRESS

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

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CROW. 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 thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, almost 7 years ago, I came to Congress to serve my community, my State, my fellow veterans, and the country that I deeply love in a different way than I served it on the battlefield. When I put the uniform on as a teenager, I swore an oath to the Constitution, and I stand here today to uphold that oath.

I came here to represent a State that has been racked with trauma: Columbine, Aurora Theater, Club Q, Boulder, and, most recently, Evergreen High.

I came here because, like so many of my fellow veterans, I harbor deep resentment for our wars that cost thousands of lives, trillions of dollars, and decades of lost opportunity.

□ 1800

Mr. Speaker, I came here because the American working class has been gutted, left behind, and excluded from the American Dream, while the elites grow wealthier than ever.

Together with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, I came to Congress, assuming that we could solve these problems together. We could have open and safe debates in a free society.

Instead, I have seen two impeachments, an insurrection, a pandemic, cyberattacks, social unrest, political assassinations, mass shooting after mass shooting, wars, tumultuous elections, and a rapid collapse of our social fabric.

In the last 9 months, the Republican majority has given up the power and the responsibility of Congress to serve the American people and has turned this Congress into nothing more than a rubber stamp for Donald Trump.

We should do what we were sent here to do. We should make people's lives better, but the Republican majority has stopped that. The lives of average Americans everywhere are getting much worse.

Prices are skyrocketing. Homes are unaffordable. Consumer debt is surging. Unemployment is rising. Credit scores are plummeting. Family farms are going under. Gun violence continues to devastate our schools and our towns.

While Americans struggle, Donald Trump and his family are cashing in at our expense. They accept endless gifts from businesses and foreign nations, including a \$400 million jet. Individuals are charged \$500,000 to join a private club for access to Trump officials.

Mar-a-Lago and the White House Rose Garden have been turned into a pay-to-play destination for the wealthy and well-connected. Meme coins are issued so investors and foreign individuals can buy influence and personally enrich the President and his family. All of this has added billions of dollars to Trump's wealth since becoming President.

While Americans get poorer and Trump gets richer, something darker is happening. The walls of our democracy are being disassembled brick by brick. Federal troops are patrolling our streets to intimate and instill fear. Senators and Members of Congress are thrown to the ground, handcuffed, arrested, and intimidated. They are firing our most experienced generals and admirals who may simply disagree with the President.

They are purging military officials who find themselves on the wrong side of the President's cronies. They are threatening American cities with war and violence. They are attacking civil society, journalists, and public servants who show independence or speak freely.

They are censoring media because someone dares to question or make a joke about the President. They are snatching people off the streets with

masked agents in unmarked vehicles. They are forcing American troops to get on their knees and roll out the red carpet for a brutal dictator. They are now using a terrible tragedy to pit Americans against one another and grab power.

Mr. Speaker, political violence in every form is abhorrent. I condemn every single act of political violence, regardless of its source or its motivation.

I went to war three times for this country to defend the Constitution and the rights of people to say things I might disagree with. The right of every American to speak freely, peacefully, organize, and protest is fundamental to who we are. After all, what is more American than the ability to question authority? Questioning authority is, in fact, how we came to be a Nation.

We all lose when free and open debate is replaced with violence or threats. We must not lose our right and our responsibility to speak up against abuses of authority.

Power in America has always been cyclical. At one time, one party is in power. The next moment, another is. That is why we must all protect it all of the time and not just when it is convenient for us.

Everyone must defend the ability of a minority, Republican or Democrat, to question and protest, because at some point, we will need that right. That is why an attack on one person's freedom is an attack on all of us.

That is exactly what Donald Trump is doing. He is attacking all of our rights. Donald Trump and his cronies are now labeling those who disagree with him terrorists, scum, and enemies of the State. Only they will decide what is hateful. Only they will decide what poses a threat. Only they will decide who can speak and who will be silenced.

If anyone thinks they are safe just because it is happening to someone else this time, they are not paying attention to history. Donald Trump and his cronies have attacked anyone, including rightwing media and politicians, simply for questioning them.

The point for Trump is not to advance an ideology. It is to silence dissent and anyone who would dare speak up. When dissent is silenced, they can turn our government and weaponize it into an institution that serves only Donald Trump and enriches those who are loyal to him.

In a system where the rule of law is replaced with raw power and governed by grievance, greed, cruelty, and impunity, nobody is safe.

This is not just a story of a Presidential power grab because that was envisioned by our Constitution. That is why it was written the way it was. It was written to prevent power grabs. There are people with power right now allowing this to happen.

As Trump tramples on the Constitution, some of our most elite and powerful individuals and institutions are

failing to defend our democracy. Some of our Nation's most powerful law firms have bent the knee. Some of our finest universities are buckling. Some of our most powerful CEOs have capitulated. Some of our largest media companies are simply surrendering.

If those with power and influence want to sell off our rights and freedoms to enrich themselves, then Americans should make it clear that cowardice and greed will fail. We will not shop at their stores. We will not tune in to their TV and radio stations. We won't send our kids and our money to their universities. We won't use their services if they are going to enable our slide to authoritarianism. What makes their cowardice and greed so stark is the courage we have seen from everyday Americans.

When ICE agents started interrogating kids on a baseball diamond in Harlem, Coach Youman Wilder was the only thing that stood between those agents and his young players. Despite threats, he stood up and told the agents that they had no right to speak to those kids. The agents left. In the moment, Wilder told himself he was willing to die to make sure those kids got home.

In Twisp, Washington, a small, rural town that Trump won last November, hundreds of residents gather every Saturday to protest cuts to Medicaid and SNAP. These are cuts that will devastate their community. One resident, a school teacher of over 30 years, said they protest because: "Democracy only works if we work it."

□ 1810

In April, millions took to the streets to peacefully protest. We saw massive demonstrations nationwide in cities big and small. In Cortez, Colorado, a population of 9,000, 600 people showed up. In Gardiner, Montana, a population of 800, 75 people made their voices heard. In Daleville, Alabama, home to 5,000, 100 members of the community showed up and spoke out.

Here in Washington, D.C., as the National Guard is patrolling, and ICE agents are dramatically ramping up raids across the city, citizens are starting Instagram pages and Facebook groups to inform fellow citizens of their rights. Parents are patrolling schoolyards to protect the rights of students and other parents. Around the country journalists are investigating and relentlessly searching for and reporting the truth, despite threats to them and their family.

There is courage everywhere we look. We have not yet lost our power. So many Americans have been sounding the alarm bell for a long time, and they have been right.

We have now reached the inflection point.

Now is the time for us to stand firm and for us to stand with them, and for all of us to stand with those defending democracy, defending free speech, defending freedom of religion, defending

due process, defending the rule of law, defending the right of schoolchildren to learn without fear of being shot, and defending government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

I have taken many oaths to protect and defend our country and our Constitution, first as a soldier and now as a Member of Congress.

I often think back to the start of my service to this Nation as a young paratrooper leading an infantry platoon in the invasion of Iraq. I think about the faces of those young men whom I was responsible for, Black, White, Asian, Hispanic, from the North, from the South, East, and West, from farms and from cities, rich and poor.

When I think of America, I still think of those young paratroopers and how we came together despite our differences. We served together, we fought together, and we found great strength in one another.

That is America.

There is a tradition in the paratroopers that the leader of the unit jumps out of the plane first and then the others follow.

Mr. Speaker, I am ready to jump.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, September 19, 2025, at 9 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-1954. A letter from the Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense, (Comptroller) Chief Financial Officer, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of violations of the Anti-Deficiency Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; Public Law 97-258, Sept. 13, 1982; (96 Stat. 926); to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-1955. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Annual Report to Congress: Qualifying Payment Amount Audits, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 300gg-111(a)(2)(A)(iii); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXVII, Sec. 2799A-1(a)(2)(A)(iii) (as added by Public Law 116-260, div. BB, title I, Sec. 102(a)(1)); (134 Stat. 2761); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1956. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's determination for the emergency use of animal drugs to treat or prevent New World Screwworm myiasis in animals, pursuant to Section 564(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1957. A letter from the Program Analyst, Media Bureau, Federal Communica-

tions Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Delete, Delete, Delete [GN Docket No.: 25-133] received August 20, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1958. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Terminating National Institutes of Health Minority Biomedical Research Support Program and Rescinding the Program's Related Regulations [Docket No.: NIH-2025-0001] (RIN: 0925-AA72) received August 27, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1959. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standards of Conduct; Revocation of Superse- ded Regulations; Revision of Residual Provisions (RIN: 0991-AC40) received August 28, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1960. A letter from the Legal Advisor, Space Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Expediting Initial Processing of Satellite and Earth Station Applications [IB Docket No.: 22-411] Space Innovation [IB Docket No.: 22-271] received August 20, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1961. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant foreign narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia, declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2155(b)(2); Aug. 1, 1946, ch. 724, title I, Sec. 126b(2) (as amended by Public Law 95-242, Sec. 304(a)); (92 Stat. 134) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1962. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2349aa-9(c); Public Law 99-83, Sec. 505(c); (99 Stat. 221) and 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1963. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Venezuela that was declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1964. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Ukraine that was declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1965. A letter from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a notification of a discontinuation of service in acting role and a designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.