

him or threatened his businesses. The value of Tesla and SpaceX are tied directly to government approvals. If he doesn't get his way, he stands to lose billions.

Elon Musk is not accountable to the American people, yet he is using his unchecked influence to reshape our government for his own gain.

The world's richest man has received over \$20 billion from the Federal Government in the past. He enriches himself by pretending to be a selfless innovator. He uses his social media empire to amplify voices that agree with him and to spread misinformation designed to divide and destabilize.

He is now trying to shut down or overturn funding approved by Congress. This is funding that saves lives. Bipartisan programs, like PEPFAR, which provides lifesaving HIV treatment to millions, have been thrown into uncertainty. Stop-work orders have frozen global health initiatives. New funding obligations and disbursements have been suspended.

Healthcare workers have been told to stop. Clinics are being forced to close. Essential medicine and supplies can no longer reach those in need. The impact is devastating, especially for women and children who rely on these programs for survival.

Here at home, this administration has found a new scapegoat for everything that goes wrong: diversity, equity, and inclusion.

A plane and helicopter crash in our Nation's Capital? Must be diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Wildfires in Los Angeles? Must be diversity, equity, and inclusion.

A major IT system failure? Must be DEI.

The collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge? Must be DEI.

Republicans blame DEI not because it is responsible but because it is an easy target because fear and division are their most effective tools. Yet, as the majority wages this culture war, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle ignore the real crises threatening our democracy and our communities.

WE SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID TO TEACH OUR HISTORY

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, we have entered Black History Month, but now Federal agencies are uncertain about how to recognize it due to new executive orders.

The Pentagon even paused training about the Tuskegee Airmen because they weren't sure if teaching American history violated the President's mandate.

We should not be afraid to teach our history to soldiers. We should not be afraid to teach our history to our children.

Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, John Lewis, Maya Angelou, A. Philip Randolph, and many more titans for diversity, equity, and inclusion played essential roles in shaping our Nation. Their contributions made America stronger, and their stories need to be

told. Yet, today, politicians are telling young Black and Brown children that they will never earn or deserve a place in this country because of the color of their skin.

We are at a crossroads. We can stand up for democracy, truth, and inclusion, or we can allow fear and division to dictate our future.

I choose to fight for a country where every person, regardless of race, religion, or background, has a fair shot.

I choose to stand against corruption and self-interest that puts lives at risk.

I choose to defend the values that make our Nation strong.

I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will remember their oath of office and that we answer to the U.S. Constitution, not a President.

The silence from the other side is deafening.

□ 1115

OUR GOVERNMENT MUST MAKE ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE POSSIBLE FOR OUR CITIZENS

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, 88 years ago, President Franklin Roosevelt stood before the American people in Philadelphia and warned of an economic aristocracy that sought to dominate not just our markets but our democracy.

He spoke of those who amassed great wealth and then used that wealth to shape the laws of our Nation to serve their own worldview rather than the public good. He pledged that the government must serve the people, not the privileged few.

That same challenge exists today, but now it is billionaires themselves taking over our government. They bankroll the campaigns, install their loyalists, and want to control government so they can make the rules.

They push for deep cuts to public education, including eliminating funding for decent schools in working-class neighborhoods to fund massive tax breaks for the investor class that we cannot afford.

They fight to deregulate social media platforms to grow the market value of companies in my district just as the railroad barons of the past fought against every piece of regulation to protect their profits.

They move fast and break things, treating our government like their own personal experiment, blind to the millions of Americans who rely on its services.

Why? Because they believe they are entitled to rule. They see themselves as an aristocracy of talent, a select few whose wealth and success make them the rightful decisionmakers for the rest of us.

In their eyes, business entrepreneurs, hedge fund managers, and tech tycoons are the engines of America's pros-

perity, while working families are expected to accept whatever scraps trickle down.

They believe that democracy should cater to their vision, their profits, and their power no matter what the cost to society. They even refuse to accept what separates human beings from God: mortality itself.

We must ask ourselves: Will we allow a handful of powerful interests to dictate the future of our economy, our jobs, and our democracy, or will we reclaim the promise of an America where anyone who works hard can thrive?

That is our task in this generation: to rebuild an economy that works for the many, not just for the mighty; to invest in American production, empower workers to share in the wealth they create, and ensure that people, not financial power, determine our Nation's course.

It is up to us to make good on the radical American belief that our genius lies in ordinary Americans, defying a world history in which national glory belonged only to kings, oligarchs, or politburos.

America's distinguishing excellence, unlike Russia or China, is our belief in the boundless potential of every citizen.

Today, our government must stand up against the impersonal economic forces that have snatched away livelihoods from those working in factory towns and concentrated wealth into a few cities.

Our government must make economic independence possible for citizens so they can assert control over their destiny.

Just as Franklin Delano Roosevelt stood up to the economic royalists of his time, we must stand up today to the unholy alliance of wealth and power not out of resentment but out of resolve, not to punish wealth but to ensure that prosperity is built by and for the people who make this country run.

Mr. Speaker, that is our mission. This is our moment. Let us make sure that together we meet it and believe in the American people again.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 19 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CRAWFORD) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

O God of Earth and sea and sky, as people from all over this world have gathered together in the Nation's Capital for the National Prayer Breakfast to lift up their voices in praise and adoration, thanksgiving and supplication, we see that such a marvelous chorus of gratitude and such solemn strains of concern are the prayers of Your people this day.

In Your Heaven, O Lord, hear our prayers.

Give each one mercy in their humility as they have set aside the business of the day and the busyness of their lives to come before Your mercy seat. In repentance, we, as Your people who call on Your name, profess our deep desire to turn from our wicked ways and seek Your face this day and every day.

In Your Heaven, O Lord, hear our prayers.

In Your incomprehensible mercy and unfathomable grace, forgive us our sins, both our individual and corporate transgressions, the iniquities of body and mind, and our trespasses against others and against You.

In Your Heaven, hear our prayers, O Lord.

And heal our land, that it would once again know of Your will and receive Your favor. May all those who are called by Your name yield the fruits of Your holy spirit, that we would live lives of love, joy, peace, and forbearance, showing kindness, goodness, and faithfulness in our walk with You.

It is in Your merciful name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HARRIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING THE BIRTHDAY OF PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the birthday of one of America's most outstanding leaders, Ronald Reagan.

More than just our 40th President, Reagan was a champion of freedom, prosperity, and American exceptionalism. His leadership restored confidence in our Nation, revived our economy, and helped bring an end to the Cold War without firing a shot.

Through progrowth policies like tax cuts and deregulation, Reagan ushered in an era of economic expansion that lifted millions of Americans into prosperity. His belief in limited government and individual liberty reshaped our political landscape and continues to inspire conservative leadership today.

Beyond policy, Reagan reminded us that America's best days are always ahead. His unwavering optimism and steadfast commitment to our founding principles resonate as strongly in 2025 as they did in his time. His legacy lives on in every effort to lower taxes, strengthen our military, and uphold the values that make this Nation exceptional.

Today, as we remember President Reagan, let's recommit ourselves to his vision of a strong, prosperous, and free America. As he so often reminded us, freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. It is up to us to preserve it.

GET GOVERNMENT WORKING FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AGAIN

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

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the richest man in the world is buying access to our government at the expense of the American people.

Elon Musk, who wasn't elected by anyone, is accessing the private information of millions of Americans and eliminating Federal agencies.

As a little girl in D.C., I was taught that the Nation's Capital being taken by storm was our country's worst nightmare. It is happening today, not by a foreign adversary but by the boy band billionaires looking to line their pockets.

This week, many of us stood up and fought back. Our country does not have time for this foolishness.

No one can seem to explain to me what the Trump administration has done to bring down prices at the grocery store, to make it easier to buy or rent a home, or to lower the price of a gallon of gas.

Mr. Speaker, we have to do whatever it takes to get this government working for the American people again.

ADDRESSING FENTANYL CRISIS

(Mr. HILL of Arkansas asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the critical steps that my colleagues and I are taking to protect Americans and their families from the illicit fentanyl crisis that has been harming our communities for years.

Illicit fentanyl has become the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 18 and 49 and ravages communities in every corner of Arkansas.

In 2019, my Fentanyl Sanctions Act became law, imposing sanctions on Chinese drug manufacturers that supply synthetic opioids and transnational criminal organizations that traffic fentanyl into our country.

In 2022, my Preventing Overdoses and Saving Lives Act passed the House with overwhelming support and became law. That bill expands lifesaving drugs like naloxone by promoting its coprescription with opioid medications.

Later this afternoon, the House will come together again and pass the HALT Fentanyl Act, permanently extending President Trump's 2018 classification of illicit fentanyl-related substances in schedule I.

Mr. Speaker, together, this Chamber and President Trump will continue our work to save American lives by keeping illicit fentanyl off of our streets and out of our communities.

REMEMBERING APOLINARIO YSIT

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

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Apolinario Ysit, or Ario, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and leader in our community who passed away last month.

Ario learned values of hard work and service to others on his 13-acre ranch and as an active member of the Boy Scouts of America. He met the love of his life, Joyce, at the local movie theater, and they married in 1957.

Ario also proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps and locally served on the Alameda County Planning Commission. He was named the Commissioner of the Year in 2003. He was also on our local fire commission.

He was considered the unofficial mayor of Sunol. He worked tirelessly to secure funding for local projects, developed the Sunol Depot Gardens park, and strengthened community organizations like the Sunol Business Guild.

Mr. Speaker, he will forever be remembered to me as a friend but an even bigger friend and public servant to the community of Alameda County.

May our dear friend, Ario, rest in peace.