

abandonment of a fledgling democracy that has been valiantly fighting for its very existence. Instead of standing by Ukraine, the Trump administration is insisting that it yield its natural resource wealth to the United States in exchange for previous American support without any guarantee of territorial integrity.

This is not the behavior of a great democratic power, the leader of the free world. It is the behavior of a Mafia state engaged in coercion and blackmail. It is impossible not to be ashamed by what is being done in the name of America.

Putin would like nothing more than to cause internal chaos in Ukraine and rid Kyiv of Zelenskyy. Trump is following suit. Zelenskyy is absolutely right when he stated that Trump is living inside a disinformation bubble.

At the root, Trump's policies betray a fundamental misunderstanding of the American idea: the fact that we are a free and self-governing people, a democracy that has always been a beacon of liberty.

The President and his billionaire, shadow co-president have embraced a dystopian ideology based on falsehoods. The effect of their disinformation is rapidly bringing us to a crisis point where their falsehoods will crash into the reality of a great power competition.

If America abandons Ukraine and embraces the Kremlin, the consequences for the United States and for the world will prove ruinous. Already, everywhere Russia has advanced into Ukrainian territory, its forces have raped and pillaged and murdered.

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

DIRE CONSEQUENCES OF FUNDING FREEZE AND MASS FIRINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. VASQUEZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. VASQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the dire consequences of the Federal funding freezes and mass firings that are devastating communities across the country, including in my home State of New Mexico.

Over the past few weeks, I have spoken with New Mexicans who have been impacted by these reckless decisions. Their stories are heartbreaking. Their families are suffering. Rural communities are reeling, and they deserve to be heard.

The funding freeze is crippling essential programs in our State, programs that provide wildfire prevention, conserve rangelands, grasslands, and forests, provide services to veterans, and fund public safety services. Rural communities and food producers are left vulnerable. Our national parks and forests are in disarray, and our local economies are suffering.

At the same time, mass firings are stripping thousands of dedicated Federal workers of their livelihoods. They are Americans—parents, veterans, and public servants—who have spent years serving their communities.

More than 2,400 employees have been dismissed from the Department of Veterans Affairs, undermining care for those who have served our country.

The U.S. Forest Service is losing the very employees that provide Americans access to our national treasures and public lands. These cuts also threaten wildfire prevention as our State enters another critical fire season.

The administration has fired 2,300 Department of the Interior employees, including 800 from the Bureau of Land Management and another 1,000 from the National Park Service, crippling decades of conservation efforts and degrading public land management.

These numbers alone are shocking, but they don't fully capture the impact. I want to share what my constituents have told me about these firings because behind every statistic is a real American.

Jason, a former National Park Service employee from Grants, New Mexico, told me: I received outstanding reviews on my last evaluation just a week before I was laid off. The local economy here in Grants will be devastated. I moved here to serve my community. I joined the local library board, and I am serving my people, but now I am afraid I will have to leave. There are no options left.

Devrie, who works with the Friends of Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, shared: We already lost two employees at the refuge. We were understaffed before, and now if we lose visitors, my job is next. The Bosque brings in thousands of tourism dollars to Socorro, New Mexico. This isn't just about jobs. It is about the future of our communities, and what is happening is reckless.

Madison, a former probationary Federal employee in Carlsbad, New Mexico, told me: I lost my dream job on February 14. Many of us had moved hours away from our families to serve. In Carlsbad alone, the government wasted nearly half a million taxpayer dollars training us, only to fire us months later. These mass firings cannot go unnoticed.

Claudia, who worked at Carlsbad Caverns National Park, shared this: In 4½ months, I dedicated myself to my work, training others, providing emergency medical services, ensuring visitor safety. Then, without warning, I was fired. I was told I failed to prove my skills, despite my experience, my positive evaluations, and my commitment. How does firing somebody making less than \$40,000 a year solve the debt crisis?

These are the voices of our rural communities. They are not nameless, faceless numbers to be scratched off by somebody who wasn't even elected by the American people. From their coun-

try and from this administration, they deserve better.

As Elon Musk is busy firing thousands of New Mexicans, the Republican majority is preparing today a budget that offers American taxpayer dollars to give massive tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires. I hope that my colleagues can justify eliminating a \$40,000 Federal job at a national park for wildfire prevention so that a millionaire can take another summer vacation to Aruba.

I urge my colleagues to recognize the human cost of these reckless firings and funding freezes. I am sure the constituents of my colleagues will make it clear to them even if they don't listen to us today.

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish by Mr. VASQUEZ is as follows:)

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize a group of individuals who are the life force of our nation: our farmworkers. Their commitment and tireless efforts in the field ensure that every family in this country can access fresh, nutritious food. I see and hear you, and I am proud to represent you.

Every day, these tireless workers face challenges that require strength and perseverance. Whether enduring extreme weather conditions or working long hours, their work sustains our economy and feeds our communities. Behind every meal we enjoy is the constant dedication of farm workers, who often go unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, hoy quiero reconocer a un grupo de personas que son la fuerza vital de nuestra nación: nuestros trabajadores agrícolas.

Su compromiso y esfuerzos incansables en el campo aseguran que todas las familias de este país puedan tener alimentos frescos y nutritivos. Los veo y los escucho y estoy orgulloso de representarlos.

Cada día, estos trabajadores incansables enfrentan desafíos que requieren fortaleza y dedicación. Trabajan muchas horas en condiciones climáticas extremas para sostener nuestra economía y alimentar a nuestras comunidades. Detrás de la comida que disfrutamos está la dedicación constante de los trabajadores del campo que muchas veces son invisibles en este país.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Mexico will provide a translation of his remarks to the desk.

ILL-CONCEIVED BUDGET RESOLUTION

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

Ms. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, this week House Republicans are bringing forth their ill-conceived, cruel budget resolution. This resolution will set the stage across the board for cuts on the basic services our constituents depend on the most. These constituents, by the way, live in both red States and blue States.

As the majority brings up their budget resolution, they have already said what they plan to do because they told us. They want to take away Head Start

school lunches. They want to take away food assistance from children and needy families. They want to take away Medicaid and Affordable Care Act premium assistance. Instead of strengthening the social safety net, the MAGA majority has decided to strip Medicaid coverage from almost 65,000 children in my district alone.

Almost 40 percent of children in Washington State get their healthcare through Medicaid, 35 percent of moms giving birth and their newborn babies rely on Medicaid for their healthcare, and the MAGA majority wants to strip away their healthcare.

If any of my colleagues vote for this, they have forfeited the right to claim they are pro-life ever again. It is not pro-life to take away a newborn baby's healthcare. It is not pro-life to take away healthcare from 65,000 children in my district. It is not pro-life to take away food from hungry children.

We were promised that president Musk and the MAGA majority would lower costs for the American people from day one. This does none of that. Instead, they are trying to take away healthcare and food from our kids.

I urge everyone to vote "no" on this resolution and stop the Republican rip-off.

UNPRECEDENTED FIRING OF MILITARY LEADERS

Ms. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the unprecedented firing of some of our most qualified and senior military leadership, including General CQ Brown, the eminently qualified Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

General Brown is an exceptional leader, a dedicated servicemember, and an American hero. His firing, the dismissal of Admiral Franchetti, and the judge advocate generals for the services is a travesty. When nominated, General Brown had logged in over 3,000 flying hours, including 130 combat hours and command of the Pacific Air Forces for the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. His service and dedication are impeccable.

Most galling is that the person President Trump nominated is affirmatively less qualified than General Brown was when he was nominated. This person has not even met the most basic qualifications to be chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

What does this tell our servicemembers and their families and our future recruits that expect to be promoted on merit and ability?

President Trump has decided to prioritize nominating people who will make us less safe and less secure because his only requirement is blind loyalty.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, we constantly hear the drumbeat of needing to prepare for the threats that we face both today and tomorrow, both here at home and abroad. President Trump's abrupt dismissal has created chaos, will degrade our readiness, hurt recruitment, and empower our enemies.

LIFE AND LEGACY OF ERNEST CHARLES TANNER

Ms. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today, as we celebrate Black History Month, to recognize the life and legacy of Ernest "Ernie" Charles Tanner.

Ernie Tanner was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, on June 5, 1889. His family moved to Tacoma, Washington, my hometown, in 1900, where he attended Tacoma High School, which is now known as Stadium High School. At Whitworth College, he was the first African American to play football at the college level in the entire Pacific Northwest.

After college, Mr. Tanner worked as a Tacoma elevator operator, and in 1918 he joined the Tacoma chapter of the International Longshoremen's Association, then known as ILA. He remained a member until he died.

In 1934, Mr. Tanner was the only Black member of the Tacoma strike committee during the big strike that shut down every single Pacific Coast port. Mr. Tanner worked closely with San Francisco leader, Harry Bridges, to keep Black and White workers united during the strike so employers could not break the union.

He was a trustee of Local 2897 from 1934 to 1936, where he pressured leaders to pay Black dockworkers the same wages as their White counterparts.

Ernest Charles Tanner passed away in 1956 at the age of 66. He achieved what many seek when they join a union, the recognition of the dignity of all work, to rise out of poverty, and to provide a better life for his family. This was exemplified when Mr. Tanner's son, Jack Tanner, became the Pacific Northwest's first Black Federal judge in 1978. This is generational success and wealth.

Ernie Tanner broke barriers in sports and labor. On behalf of his community, it is appropriate that we recognize his life and legacy today. Happy Black History Month to everyone.

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 12 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. AMODEI) at noon.

PRAYER

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

The Word of the Lord is right and true. O Lord, bind Your Word this day to our hearts that it would guide our

steps and direct our lives with Your unwavering righteousness.

By Your Word the heavens were made and the starry host by the breath of Your mouth. Speak Your Word into our lives that what we do would be as You command, and what we profess would revere You.

Lord, You foil the plans of the nations, You thwart the purposes of the peoples. Then show forth Your plans which are sure and stand firm forever. Reveal the purposes of Your grace plan through all generations.

For You love righteousness and justice. Fill the Earth and all who labor in this place with Your love.

We wait in hope for You, Lord, for You alone are our help and shield. May Your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in You.

In Your sovereign 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 California (Mr. LAMALFA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAMALFA 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.

BUDGET RESOLUTION WILL BRING FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY TO GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the important work we are doing right now on the budget resolution is going to set the course to bring really strong fiscal responsibility back to this Congress and for our Nation.

It is important that we get on board and pursue this process so that we can do even better things later on this year. There is so much that needs to be done.

We are seeing the great work that DOGE is doing in reeling in the size of our government and trying to claw back some of the waste that has cost