

such a way that makes it less fire prone, to rake the forest floor?

Then people made fun of that word, "rake," which is actually a technical term for some of the equipment used in forestry to make sure areas can be a little more fire safe by thinning trees, removing brush, and removing dead material on that.

The question is, as Governor Newsom goes out on site and waves his arms and tells us it is someone else's fault, then what has he learned in the last 6 years? More importantly, what has he applied since he had this photo op in Paradise as the new Governor of California? It looks like not much, not much action.

Certain promises were made to be aggressive on land management in California and certain claims were made, but the actual numbers are one-fifth of the amount claimed that had been treated, the work that had been done in California.

We have seen time after time more and more fires: the Camp fire in Paradise listed here, 85 lives lost, 90 percent of the homes; the Carr fire near Redding; the Zogg fire on the other side of Redding; the Park fire last year, 400,000 acres from Chico all the way up to Mount Lassen; the Dixie fire, 1 million acres. This is all northern California. Now southern California is getting international coverage, and rightfully so.

What are we going to do? What is Newsom going to do? Well, he wants to blame it on climate change. Time and time again, we are hearing about climate change and we are hearing about carbon dioxide. Here is the same chart I show off and on on this floor: Carbon dioxide represents 0.04 percent of the atmosphere. It has barely changed. Look at the rest of the chart, what isn't CO₂. They want to just make it a climate change story.

What are we doing to make things more fire resilient in southern California?

This is the Santa Ynez Reservoir just up the hill from Pacific Palisades. The portion on the right here is what it looks like more or less when it is full. Here is what it looks like presently. It is empty. It has been empty since last February. They have been fooling around for nearly a year supposedly repairing the cover over the thing. It holds 117 million gallons of water.

They report to us that there are three one-million gallon tanks that ran out, the third one by 3 a.m. on the night of the fire above Pacific Palisades. What would another 117, approximately 40 times the storage of those three tanks, have been able to do for them had it been available, had the maintenance been done?

Well, the Governor is going to start an investigation on it now, kind of like when he starts an investigation on high gas prices due to policies he does that drive up the cost of fuel, make fuel and the refineries not available, and quit drilling for fuel in California,

which we have so much abundance of near that Bakersfield area, et cetera.

What are we doing here? Why is this reservoir empty? Why has it been empty for nearly a year to make a little repair in the cover that may have been able to be done by reservoir staff? It is incompetence at all levels here.

What do we have going on? Is there enough water supply? He says, well, we have plenty of water.

Presently, this is Shasta Dam in northern California, and it is dumping water right now. It is dumping water out. It still has a million acre-feet of space left, but it is dumping water because they want to have room at the top to conserve for more weather. Okay. I guess I understand that.

However, what are they doing with that water down below? Newsom's plans have stopped the delta pumps from running at full capacity to fill other water systems around the State, such as San Luis Reservoir, which is about 70 percent full right now and doesn't have a storage problem for flood, as well as making sure the aqueducts are filling all the other reservoirs such as the one we just looked at, Santa Ynez. They could fill that in a short amount of time. The amount of water that runs out wasted, running through the delta in an hour, would fill that Santa Ynez Reservoir. It would take a long time locally because they have to rely on either wells or coming from some other water source we haven't quite ascertained yet because it is hard to find information.

Is Governor Newsom going to help or is he going to be a detriment and just go on camera and blame everybody else and blame the President? We need real work done to make fire conditions much safer in California and the West.

MAKE 199A DEDUCTION PERMANENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, President Trump's 2017 tax package created section 199A, a 20 percent small business deduction to help small businesses and family farms like those in my district. In fact, three out of four small business employers in this country have benefited from this tax provision.

Unfortunately, this deduction is one of many set to expire this year. The National Federation of Independent Business has circulated a petition, which has over 100,000 signatures, urging Congress to make this vital tax deduction permanent and stop a massive tax hike on our small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to listen to our local business owners and join me in supporting making the 199A deduction permanent.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Holy God, You who never change, nor change Your mind, accompany us into this day. Shine Your steady light onto our proceedings and reveal Your unwavering wisdom. Illumine every good and perfect gift that You offer us this day.

May we approach with alacrity the tasks ahead, but never let us deceive ourselves to think that we can do them all on our own, but let us seek Your assistance in our efforts. As we commit ourselves to our labors, let us not assume that it is our own strength which will carry the weight of the day, but our reliance on You to enable us to bear our burdens.

Remind us again that all we have and all that we strive to do were Yours to give us and Yours to entrust, however long, into our keeping. In the time that we have, may we steward Your gifts with integrity and in accordance with Your divine counsel.

Let us then be quick to listen and slow to speak, rejoicing in the privilege we have to serve You again this day.

Unto You we offer our prayers and do so calling on the strength of Your name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCGOVERN 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.

PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the fall of the dictator Assad of Damascus is equivalent to the fall of the Berlin Wall, liberating central and eastern Europe, now leading to liberating the Middle East and North Africa.

It is known that war criminal Putin and the regime in Tehran have lost a murderous puppet. War criminal Putin is trying to evacuate his bases. The Iranian regime is pivoting to support the Houthis in Yemen to attack American shipping. The terrorist regimes in Moscow and Iran are more vulnerable than ever.

President Donald Trump wants to achieve peace through strength, working with our allies, Turkiye and Saudi Arabia. Additionally, we know that he will be restoring the Abraham Accords, which will bring security for Israel and stability for the people of Syria and Lebanon, including the legitimate Governments of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Open borders for dictators put all Americans at risk of more 9/11 attacks imminent, as warned by the FBI. Donald Trump will reinstitute existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength.

REJECT TRUMP TAX PLAN

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans leaked their plans for how they are going to cut taxes for their rich friends at the expense of regular working people. News flash: It is awful, awful, awful.

A recent analysis of the Trump tax plan found that it would, on average, cut taxes for the richest 5 percent of Americans and raise taxes on everyone else, the 95 percent of the population who do not hang out at Mar-a-Lago.

To pay for this sick and twisted plan that screws over regular people, they want to totally gut the Federal programs that help regular people. They want to cut the SNAP benefits by hundreds of billions of dollars, slashing the food budgets of millions of Americans by nearly a third. They want to rip healthcare away from people and block access to economic security programs for hardworking American families.

That is the Republican playbook: Attack regular people and shower corporations and the ultrarich with tax breaks and hope that it trickles down.

Let's reject this disgusting plan and invest in our anti-poverty safety net. Let's support our middle class and let's end hunger now.

FOREST MISMANAGEMENT IN CALIFORNIA

(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, I am showing you what a managed forest looks like here and an unmanaged forest looks like here.

In my district in northern California and much of the West, forests burn millions of acres year after year, such as a million-acre fire in my district a couple years ago, 600,000 acre, and on and on it goes. It occurs because the lands are not managed, not allowed to be managed by environmental lawsuits and such.

Governor Newsom, the Governor of California, promised after 6 years in office, when he came to my district in Paradise, to do more. He said: We have done all this acreage. We have done all this work. He actually overstated the figure by five times.

Here we have now the situation in southern California where this brush is catching on fire. In the high winds, it is just a tinderbox that blows into the neighborhoods and burns down Pacific Palisades and all the others affected like that.

They have suspended their brush program there, so Gavin Newsom can't point and say we have done all this great stuff here and blame everybody else like he does, waving his arms around. Instead, they have not done the work, and they have put people in danger, as well as the issue with water in California flowing out to the Pacific instead of being stored to help keep their storage facilities full so they can fight fires. It is mismanagement.

OPPOSE TIKTOK BAN

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of Congress to speak out against the ban on TikTok that will take place in 6 days, on January 19. I call on President Biden and President-elect Trump to put a pause on this ban so 170 million Americans don't lose their free speech. Millions of Americans' livelihoods will be ended if this ban takes place.

We need to be for free speech. We can protect Americans' data, we can protect us from foreign interference on algorithms, but we should not ban TikTok. I call on others to join me in standing up for free speech and opposing this TikTok ban.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MORAN) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 10, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of

the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on January 10, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., said to contain the Economic Report of the President together with the Annual Report of the Council of Economic Advisers.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk of the House.

ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-2)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Joint Economic Committee and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

In the last four years, America has overcome some of the most challenging economic conditions in our history. When I took office, our economy was in the grips of worst pandemic in a century, and decades of trickle-down policies had left us especially vulnerable to its shocks. Hundreds of thousands of businesses had closed, and millions of Americans risked losing their homes. Unemployment was high and the risk of long-term damage was real.

My Administration responded with a new economic playbook to rebuild our economy from the middle out and bottom up, not the top down. Since then, we've made historic investments in our nation and in the industries of the future. We've stood by unions and helped to create a record 16 million jobs. We've fought to lower costs for consumers, and to give small businesses a fair chance to compete. Today, our economy has not only recovered, it has emerged stronger, laying the foundation for a promising new chapter in the American comeback story.

My Council of Economic Advisers has prepared this report examining actions taken to both ease the pandemic's immediate impact and strengthen our economy over the long-term, to help ensure we learn the right lessons as a nation and to build on the historic progress we've made.

Our work began right away with the American Rescue Plan, one of the most consequential recovery packages in history. To reopen our economy, we knew we had to defeat COVID-19, so we launched unprecedented vaccination efforts. We got immediate economic relief out to tens of millions of families who needed it most. We expanded the Child Tax Credit, cutting child poverty in half to its lowest rate in history. And we sent funding directly to every state, city, and town in the nation, keeping police on the beat and teachers in the classroom, families in their homes and small businesses on their feet, preventing a wave of scarring bankruptcies, defaults, and evictions.