

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.

At the same time, the pandemic had snarled supply chains and set off widespread labor shortages, driving up costs worldwide. In response, my Administration immediately convened businesses and labor to unclog our ports and get goods flowing. Russia's unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine further increased food and gas prices. In response, I directed the largest release of fuel from our strategic reserve in history to ensure that our energy markets were well supplied, and we challenged oil and gas companies to reinvest record profits in domestic production, which has reached an all-time high under my Administration. And we took steps to promote competition across industries, boosting transparency and lowering costs for consumers.

Our approach worked. Inflation is down significantly from its peak and is now close to pre-pandemic levels. Together, we've achieved the elusive "soft landing" of lower inflation, steady employment, strong economic growth, and rising real wages—which most observers said was impossible.

But ending the economic crisis alone was never enough. I ran for President to set the American economy on a stronger long-term course, by breaking from the trickle-down orthodoxy that has failed our nation for decades. That theory holds that by cutting taxes for the very wealthy, benefits will trickle down to everyone else. But in truth, not a lot has ever trickled down onto most folks' kitchen tables. Instead, inequality grew and America slid deeper into debt.

I have a different approach. I believe the best way to build America is to invest in America, in American products and American people. And the best way to grow our economy is to grow the backbone of our nation: the middle class. That's what my Investing in America agenda has done, through landmark laws that shore up our infrastructure, our manufacturing base, and our people. Together, these are some of the most significant investments in America since the New Deal.

For decades, American infrastructure has been neglected. But our Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is finally modernizing the nation's roads, bridges, ports, airports, transit systems, and more; removing every lead pipe in America, so every child can drink clean water; and providing affordable high-speed internet for every American, no matter where they live. And it's making sure these projects are done with American products and American workers, creating hundreds of thousands of good-paying new jobs, many of them union jobs.

For too long, American factories have moved overseas, taking vital industries with them. Now, our CHIPS and Science Act is bringing manufacturing home, already attracting nearly \$450 billion in manufacturing investments to build massive new semiconductor factories, equipping America to

lead the industries of future. At the same time, our Inflation Reduction Act is making the most significant investment in fighting climate change in history, not only putting America on track to halve carbon emissions by 2030 and promoting our energy abundance and security, but also creating hundreds of thousands of good-paying clean-energy jobs.

I know all too well, Americans still too often struggle to afford life-saving prescription drugs, and sometimes are even forced to choose between medicine and rent. It's wrong. The Inflation Reduction Act also takes historic steps to change that, capping total out-of-pocket costs for seniors on Medicare at \$2,000 a year; slashing insulin for seniors to \$35 a month, down from as much as \$400; and finally giving Medicare the power to negotiate lower drug prices across the board. And it has expanded health insurance through the Affordable Care Act, bringing the share of uninsured Americans to record lows.

The impact of these efforts is just starting—and the full effects will be felt over the next decade—but there is no question that our nation today is the best-positioned on earth to win the competition for the 21st century. We've laid a foundation of possibilities that will make life a little easier for millions of Americans and can propel America forward for decades.

Today, we hand the incoming Administration the world's strongest economy. The next four years will determine if America builds on that strength, or slides back into the old trickle-down approach that only benefits those at the very top. I believe that the transformative investments we've made are already deeply rooted in our nation, and therefore too costly, politically and economically, to reverse. At this inflection point, I hope that our playbook serves as a model for how to fight for the middle class and give working families a fair shot, forging a stronger, more secure and prosperous America for generations to come.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, January 9, 2025.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1630

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas) at 4 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

AMTRAK EXECUTIVE BONUS DISCLOSURE ACT

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 192) to amend title 49, United States Code, to require Amtrak to include information on base pay and bonus compensation of certain Amtrak executives, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 192

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Amtrak Executive Bonus Disclosure Act".

SEC. 2. AMTRAK REPORTS AND AUDITS.

Section 24315(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting "and make available to the public on the website of Amtrak," after "submit to Congress"; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

"(2) provide the annual base pay and any bonus compensation paid to a member of the executive leadership team (including the chief executive officer, president, and officers) of Amtrak, including the criteria and metrics used to determine any such bonus compensation; and"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentleman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 192.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 192 was introduced by Representative ROUZER, and I am proud to be a cosponsor on this bill. The bill is intended to ensure that annual bonuses awarded to Amtrak's top executives are made public at the beginning of every calendar year.

Amtrak relies heavily on government subsidies, and during more than 50 years of existence, it has never made a profit. Nonetheless, Amtrak executives have been awarded generous six-figure bonuses despite financial losses and service issues.

The disclosure of such huge payouts rightfully outrages the public and members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. This bill is a