impossible—warmer ideology is crumbling. There is no climate armageddon on the horizon.

But don't expect global warm-mongers to admit this. As we've discovered from a new trove of emails sent by leading European climate-change scientists, there has been a vast conspiracy to manipulate public opinion by manipulating data to make CO2 output—our precious carbon-dioxide—look like a poison.

Happily, the left's pernicious, economy-destroying global warming lies is collapsing under a growing body of evidence that the CO2 scare is a fraud. Who says we have nothing to be thankful for?

And despite the weaknesses of the linkage between CO2 and temperature, the alarmists continue with their tactics. We just heard a report published in Nature Climate Change in the last few days that the CO2 emissions in 2010 went up by 5.9 percent, which scientists claimed was the highest total annual growth ever recorded—except they didn't take into account new energy technologies that make gas and oil and coal cleaner and greener. The scientists didn't care about how cleanly coal and oil might be being burned; they just estimated—or guesstimated—CO2 emissions based on the total amount of coal and oil used. And the media, like their lapdogs, faithfully reported that this sounds like a calamity when you have so much more CO2 coming in, even though they never measured any CO2 emissions. None of it was actually recorded.

The truth is CO2 is not a pollutant. Anybody perpetuating that myth that CO2 is dangerous, a dangerous pollutant, is contributing to the health-destructive impact of real pollution by diverting resources and attention away from these very real challenges. We have more than enough CO2 emissions. The money that could be used to develop new energy technologies, for example, that could have moved us off of our dependence on foreign oil.

Some examples of these technologies are the small modular nuclear reactors which could offer safety and no pollution, but no leap forward in terms of technology dollars on trying to prove that man-made global warming is something we have to worry about and spread the fear.

We have not pursued these or other technologies which could have fundamentally benefited everyone on the Earth because we have been wasting our time and our resources. We have been trying to figure out how to bury carbon in the ground and other such things.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm here to explain that this is utter nonsense and to warn of the danger that lurks behind this high-sounding cause.

Don't miss the significance, by the way, of the Durban conference in South Africa that is gathering now to determine how best to control our lives.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to the people of the United States they pay close attention to this. Eisenhower wasn't here to protect us anymore. The fact is our freedom is at stake. The globalists would like to control the people of the United States. It's up to us to defend our freedom. The patriots will win if we stand together.

I yield back the balance of my time.

YEAR IN REVIEW: FIRST SESSION OF 112TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEST) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. WEST. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's very important that, as we draw to the close of this first session of the 112th Congress, we come back and we do what I believe is a yearly review or an assessment.

Mr. Speaker, the 8th of December, was the target adjournment day that the leadership of the new majority of the United States House of Representatives hoped would mark the end of the first session of the 112th Congress. Yet today we are short of completing some of the most important work that we must accomplish.

As we enter the final days of 2011 and approach the end of this first session of the 112th Congress, I must take the time to offer an apology to the citizens of the 11th district of south Florida and to all my fellow citizens across this great Nation. It is not because we have not changed the conversation here in Washington, D.C., but because I would have hoped our exertions would have been as a collective body a bit greater. Failure to pass a balanced budget amendment was a great disappointment and an example of a lack of exertion.

When I was elected to the House of Representatives in November 2010 I was one of over 100 new Members that you, the American people, sent to the House of Representatives, entrusting each one of us to come to Capitol Hill and work diligently—and differently than our predecessors—on the critical issues our country was facing during these challenging times. Record high unemployment; a quickly growing debt; out-of-control spending that leads to budget deficits taken year after year; a spiraling foreclosure rate around the country, and specifically back in our district in south Florida; businesses shutting their doors, due in part to increasing uncertainty provided by the government from crushing regulations issued by Federal agencies in Washington, D.C., and the list goes on.

Friends, neighbors, colleagues, and our fellow citizens all believed our Nation was on the wrong track, and we were concerned for our future. Many of them felt our country’s best days were in the past and that our future looked bleak. Each of them wanted our Federal Government to take a different course of action.

Mr. Speaker, I spent the majority of my adult life—22 years—serving in the United States Army, never having been elected to public office. I have dedicated my career to serving our great Nation. But unlike many of those whom I have served with here in Congress, I am not a career politician who has led soldiers in combat on foreign battlefields, and was ready to go to our Nation’s Capitol and lead from the front on this new battlefield. I understood there there was no prior experience that would fall short, my military training would enable me to serve my constituents well in the Halls of Congress, because in the military we were taught a simple principle, Mr. Speaker, and I think you know it well: We work until the mission is complete. And on election night of 2010, I knew that I was embarking, along with my new colleagues, on one of the most challenging missions that I would ever face.

The leadership of the new majority in the House of Representatives created a calendar for the first session of this Congress, and as a newly elected Member of this body, I provided my assessment, stating that I believed the schedule did not provide the necessary days on Capitol Hill to address the pressing issues our Nation faced. Now, 1 year later, unfortunately, it seems I was correct. On the eve of the holiday season, the United States Congress is dealing with some of its most important issues while pressed against the desire to be home and with our families and loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I, along with you, spent many holidays away from my family and friends while serving our country in the Armed Forces. Every time I was away from home during the holiday season, as well as I'm sure you did, I proudly put on my uniform and did my duty on behalf of the American people. And while I may not wear the uniform of the United States Army any longer, I am proud to perform of a suit and tie and spend this holiday away from home, once again putting our country first so that we may finish
the job our constituents entrusted us to do.
Now, I don’t want people to think that I am not happy about certain things, because I am truly pleased that the regular order has been established here in the House.

The American people are able to see vibrant debate on the pressing issues and legislation is developed by Members and cleared through committee. We are slowly seeing a move away from the infamous so-called omnibus bills do a disservice to the American people because, rather than allowing elected representatives to vote “aye” or “nay” on certain provisions, these bills create a bill that includes hundreds of provisions for passage.

During the first session in the month of April, I was able to bring to the House floor H.R. 1246. This bill cut $35.7 million of wasteful spending in the form of printing and reproduction at the Department of Defense. What was so important about this legislation is that the vote was 393-0, meaning that we were able to get unanimous support from both Republicans and Democrats.

The American people expect their elected to work together to deal with the lives they lead. However, Mr. Speaker, we have witnessed over 900 days without the United States Senate passing a budget. That’s 900 days. When the House of Representatives did our job and passed a budget on the 15th of April 2011, Democrats continued to use it as a political weapon since it finally addresses the exorbitant mandatory spending that is bankrupting our country and leaving critical programs like Social Security and Medicare on an unsustainable path.

Americans continue to struggle with 9 percent-plus unemployment for over a year. In south Florida, it is even higher. But instead of debating the 20-plus bills passed by the House, many of which are bipartisan, that address the anemic jobs situation in which we are stuck, these bills languish on Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID’s desk while President Obama yet; they refuse to listen to the will of the people. Tabling the cut, cap, and balance piece of legislation during the debt debate is a prime example. Instead, they wish to remain on the same path that has proved to be a formula for disaster. They refuse to believe that we need major structural reforms. They did not heed the message of the American people of November of 2010.

And while Washington, D.C. has a budget deficit, the leadership deficit is even more disconcerting. Mr. Speaker, leaders take responsibility; and rarely do they take credit, a simple lesson that was taught to me as a young captain in the United States Army. A strong American leader would not take the misfortunes facing the American people and leverage it for political gain. And the facts speak for themselves.

Since January of 2009, more than 2 million Americans are unemployed, close to 26 million are underemployed. National unemployment has been at or above 9 percent for 28 straight months, at or above 8 percent for 34 straight months. And it is double that in the black community.

Average gas prices have gone from $1.83 to over $3.45. The federal debt has gone from $10.6 trillion to over $16.5 trillion, with 3 straight years of trillion-dollar-plus deficits. And the debt per person, Mr. Speaker, has gone from $34,000 to $48,000.

Food stamp recipients are up by 41 percent. Americans in poverty up 16 percent, with an increase of 6.4 million Americans. The Misery Index is up 65 percent, and nearly 48.5 percent of Americans are on some form of government aid.

House values are down 11 percent, and health insurance premiums are up 23 percent, from $3,354 to over $4,000. United States global competitiveness is down from first to fifth in the world.

We currently borrow 42 cents on every dollar, a dollar which soon, thanks to the insidious monetary policies emanating from the Federal Reserve, may not any longer be the default currency of the world.

With such dismal statistics, all we hear from the big megaphone of the White House is that we need to tax people—particularly certain people—more. We hear about extending a payroll tax holiday, which is nothing but a Band-Aid approach that only provides a very short-term impetus that one is telling the American people, especially our seniors, is that the constant use of payroll tax breaks continues to erode the funding of Social Security, which for the first time this year was running at a deficit.

When combined with the unemployment situation, we are speeding up the demise of Social Security in America. At some point, there must be structural tax and unemployment reform; and we must incentivize our job creators.

America is suffering, Mr. Speaker, from crony capitalism in which the government is picking the winners and the losers in the free market, using our hard-earned tax dollars. We have an Obama administration which believes it is the preeminent venture capitalist in our Nation. Episodes such as Solyndra and MF Global should cause us all grave concern.

Yes, America’s exceptionalism is not constrained by class or caste. There are income levels in our country; but sound economic, tax, and regulatory policies enable our citizens to transit those levels because America is about equal opportunity and not equal achievement, whereas liberal progressives believe that they are the arbiters of fairness.

There is no leadership emanating from the White House. Instead, we have daily election-cycle sound bites where the purpose is just to get re-elected.

Too many politicians are now focused on manipulative and deceitful rhetoric and not developing visionary, pro-growth economic policies for America. The obvious goal, it seems to me, Mr. Speaker, is to create more victims in America, an America of dependency, not individual independence.

Therefore, our Nation is truly at a choice. There is an ever-widening ideological chasm of what we are going to become as a Nation: Shall America continue as a constitutional Republic led by men and women of courage, conviction, and character? Or shall America become a bureaucratic nanny state, ruled by manipulative deceivers seeking their own political gain?

Is America truly that shining city that sits upon a hill, Mr. Speaker, or will that light be forever extinguished? The choice lies before the American people. I hope that they will choose wisely because our children and our grandchildren are watching, as well as our enemies abroad.
But, Mr. Speaker, for America I say this: fear not, for the Guardians of America's Honor shall ensure that the greatest days for this constitutional Republic lie ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for December 12 and until 4 p.m. December 13 on account of official business in the district.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1958. An act to extend the National Flood Insurance Program until May 31, 2012; to the Committee on Financial Services.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 505. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain lands within Fort Pulaski National Monument, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, December 9, 2011, at 11 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

4208. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Abamectin (avermectin); Pesticide Tolerance: Erysiphe pisi P-3100; FRL-8890-2 received November 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.


4210. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fluoridation; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0876; FRL-9025-6] received November 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4211. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Methachlopride; Methachlor Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0583; FRL-8891-4] received November 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.


4213. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Trifloxystrobin; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0456; FRL-8890-1] received November 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4214. A letter from the Deputy to the Chairman for Management, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Transfer and Redesignation of Certain Regulations Involved in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (RIN: 3064-AD82) received November 15, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.


4218. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promotion of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Adoption of Control Techniques Guidelines for Miscellaneous Metal and Plastic Parts Surface Coating Rules [EPA-R03-OAR-2011-0611; FRL-9478-2] received November 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4219. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Regulatory Changes to Implement the United States/Australian Agreement for Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation [NRC-2011-0072] (RIN: 3150-A195) received November 15, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.


4222. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Export Licensees: Exports to the Principality of Liechtenstein [Docket No.: 110818514-I331-01] (RIN: 0969-AF33) received November 15, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4223. A letter from the Chief Acquisition Officer, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Set-Asides for Small Business [FAC 2005-54; FAR Case 2009-24; Item VII; Docket 2011-0246; Item VI; Docket 2011-0246] (RIN: 0900-AM12) received November 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4224. A letter from the Chief Acquisition Officer, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Subparts: Waiver Process [FAC 2005-54; FAR Case 2009-041; Item VII; Docket 2011-0185; Sequence 1] (RIN: 0900-AL65) received November 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4225. A letter from the Chief Acquisition Officer, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Successor