about what was happening in his country. She then writes that he starts speaking and then stops and gets very emotional. She assumes he is getting emotional about the horrific violence in his country, but he says to her, ''No, it's not that, Ambassador. What is happening in my country is terrible—more terrible than anything that has ever happened to us before. But I am emotional because you are here. The United States of America is the greatest country in the world, and you, America, are here.''

That is the vision of America that has defined Ambassador Power's career, that has guided her in the awesome responsibility of representing this Nation and her values—rooted in the ideals of humility, grace, compassion, and thoughtful leadership.

I have known Ambassador Power since she and I were very young. It has been decades now of friendship and connection. You can say many things about her, but her core is decency and honor. She will represent the best of us. She is exactly the leader we need right now as we navigate the increasing and pressing challenges facing the world and our country.

I am thankful. It would be enough for Ambassador Power to retire. It would be enough for her to say, ''I have served my country'' and, like Cincinnatus, will return to her plow, but, clearly, her calling has not yet fully been answered. She will continue, should this body believe it and endorse it, to serve this country. She will continue to honor the United States of America. She will continue to be a credit to our Nation and the world. That is why I urge my colleagues to support her nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

FENTANYL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I am 5 minutes late in coming to the Senate floor. I was supposed to be here on the fentanyl issue to support Senator COTTON. I know that an objection has been raised, but I want people to know how important I think this issue is.

Today, we were considering—hopefully, by unanimous consent—passing a bill to permanently schedule fentanyl substances. Proactively scheduling fentanyl-related substances ought to be a big priority because too many Americans' lives have been lost to reject this critical measure.

Some wrongly assert that controlling fentanyl analogs is partisan and unnecessary. That is simply untrue. Legislation to schedule fentanyl analogs is a bipartisan issue. Just last year, this body passed a bipartisan, 15-month extension bill unanimously. Also, such authority is necessary. The CDC estimates that fentanyl analogs have killed 50,000 Americans in the last 12 months. We must prevent overdose deaths. Prevention is possible when we use our laws to force China to stop the flow of fentanyl analogs.

Opponents of permanent scheduling assert that the authority is broad and could result in too many arrests, but since the Drug Enforcement Administration placed fentanyl analogs in schedule I, the Justice Department has convicted only 80 people under that authority. So too many people being arrested as an argument against their permanent extension is hogwash. This authority hasn't resulted in vast and wide prosecutions; rather, this authority has been targeted and deliberate, and, of course, that is the way it should be.

So if controlling fentanyl analogs is, in fact, bipartisan and necessary, why isn't supporting legislation then a nobrainer? Perhaps because of heightened partisanship, the Democrats can't vote for legislation that helps law enforcement, or maybe they can't be seen as supporting any drug control law even if it could save thousands of lives. This position goes against the unfortunate truth that 50,000 Americans have died from these deadly fentanyl analogs. Politics has no place above human life.

As frustrated as I am by this, it is not my nature to throw in the towel. I will always work hard to find middle ground. That is why I am asking every Senator to support Senator COTTON's permanent extension or, at a minimum, my bill, the Temporary Extension of Fentanyl Scheduling Act. This bipartisan measure extends the authority to schedule fentanyl analogs for 14 months. It keeps fentanyl analogs in schedule I until July 2022, which is long enough for the administration to come to a permanent scheduling solution and allow for a deliberate and transparent dialogue with Congress.

Simply put, we need to give ourselves enough time to find a solution to this major problem causing 50,000 lives to be lost every year. As history shows us, lengthy fentanyl scheduling legislation is not controversial. I am simply asking for a similar, bipartisan approach now. My bill is the only bipartisan temporary extension bill on the table.

I am grateful for Senators HASSAN and SHAHEEN for teaming up with me and Senator CORNYN.

We can't limit ourselves in the fight against fentanyl. It is with this in mind that I urge all of my colleagues to support either a permanent extension or my bipartisan bill and to extend the authority to schedule fentanyl analogs for 14 months.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Florida.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 185

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, Americans are worried about inflation. New polling shows that 87 percent of Americans are concerned about the rising costs of household items, like diapers and gas and groceries. That is up from 77 percent just last month. They have good reason to feel that way. Right now, reports show that a third of American households making less than $50,000 in annual income are buying less because of increasing prices, and more than one-quarter of all households report that rising prices on goods are causing them to purchase less.

Just this month, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that, over the last 12 months, food prices have gone up, and gas prices have risen 23 percent. That means, since Biden was elected, gas prices have increased about 70 cents per gallon across the Nation. Year over year, consumer prices increased 2.6 percent in March. That is up from an annual 1.7 percent increase in February. This is all in addition to statements from some of America's largest corporations, like Procter & Gamble and Kimberly-Clark, which recently announced that they are increasing prices on a number of their products. That includes essential household goods, like toilet paper and diapers.

The evidence of inflation is right in front of us. Just look at these numbers that show the percentage change in average unit prices versus last year: groceries up 2.6 percent; household goods up 5.2 percent; baby care up 7 percent; general merchandise up 7.1 percent. Wages never go up this fast. So who does it hurt? It hurts the poorest and those on fixed incomes.

Businesses are also expecting price increases to continue.

According to data from FactSet, 47 S&P companies have mentioned inflation on their earnings calls for Q1 2021. That is more than during any other quarter in the last 10 years.

On its most recent earnings call, Procter & Gamble's chief financial officer, Andre Schulten, said:

> The commodity cost challenges we face this year will, obviously, be larger next fiscal year.

Who gets hurt the most when inflation rises? Not the rich. It is working families, especially those on low and fixed incomes.

I grew up poor and watched my parents struggle to put food on the table. I know just how much a slight rise in prices can hurt a family, because I saw it while I was growing up, and that is what is happening right now across our Nation.

We know that those in the Biden administration are worried about this. They know that rising costs caused by their massive spending are bad for Americans, but they won't say it. While they are reportedly worrying in private about the effects of their spending plans, they have had a different message in public.

On April 13, the New York Times reported that officials and aides at the White House and the Department of the Treasury have been holding private meetings for months to discuss inflation and have conducted indepth internal analyses for senior officials and President Biden.

The article goes on to read:

Mr. Biden's aides are sufficiently worried about the risk of that spending fueling inflation that they shaped his infrastructure proposal, which has yet to be taken up by Congress, to funnel out $2.3 trillion over eight years, which is slower than traditional stimulus.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD this New York Times article, dated April 13, 2021.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Apr. 13, 2021]

THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION IS QUIETLY OBSESSING OVER INFLATION

(By Jim Tankersley)

WASHINGTON.—Even before President Biden took office, some of his closest aides were focused on a question that risked derailing his economic agenda: Would his plans for a $1.9 trillion economic rescue package and additional government spending overheat the economy and fuel runaway inflation?

To find the answer, a close circle of advisers now working at the White House and the Treasury Department projected the behaviors of shoppers, employers, stock traders and others if Mr. Biden's plans succeeded. Officials as senior as Janet L. Yellen, the Treasury secretary, pored over the analyses in video calls and in-person meetings, looking for any hint that Mr. Biden's plans could generate sustained price increases that could hamstring family budgets. It never appeared.

Those efforts convinced Mr. Biden's team that there is little risk of inflation spiraling out of the Federal Reserve's control—an outcome that Wall Street analysts, a few prominent Republicans and even liberal economists like Lawrence H. Summers, the former Treasury secretary, have said could flow from the trillions being pumped into the economy.

Traditional readings of price increases are beginning to turn upward as the recovery accelerates. On Tuesday, the Consumer Price Index rose 0.6 percent, its fastest monthly increase in more than a decade, while a less volatile index excluding food and energy rose a more muted 0.3 percent.

But Mr. Biden's advisers believe any price spike is likely to be temporary and not harmful, essentially a one-time event stemming from the unique nature of a pandemic recession that ruptured supply chains and continues to depress activity in key economic sectors like restaurant dining and tourism.

The administration's view mirrors the posture of top officials at the Fed, including its chairman, Jerome H. Powell, whose mandate includes maintaining price stability in the economy. Mr. Powell has said that the Fed expects any short-term price pops to be temporary, not sustained, and not the type of uptick that would prompt the central bank to raise interest rates rapidly—or anytime soon.

''What we see is relatively modest increases in inflation,'' Mr. Powell said in March. ''But those are not permanent things.''

Armed with their internal data and conclusions, administration officials have begun to push back on warnings that a stimulus-fueled surge in consumer spending could revive a 1970s-style escalation in wages and prices that could cripple the economy in the years to come.

Yet they remain wary of the inflation threat and have devised the next wave of Mr. Biden's spending plans, a $2.3 trillion infrastructure package, to dispense money gradually enough not to stoke further price increases right away. Administration officials also continue to check on real-time measures of prices across the economy, multiple times a day.

''We think the likeliest outlook over the next several months is for inflation to rise modestly,'' two officials at Mr. Biden's Council of Economic Advisers, Jared Bernstein and Ernie Tedeschi, wrote on Monda in a blog post outlining some of the administration's thinking. ''We will, however, carefully monitor both actual price changes and inflation expectations for any signs of unexpected price pressures that might arise as America leaves the pandemic behind and enters the next economic expansion.''

Some Republicans call that posture dangerous. Senator Rick Scott of Florida, the chairman of his party's campaign arm for the 2022 midterm elections, has called on Mr. Biden and Mr. Powell to present plans to fight inflation now.

''The president's refusal to address this critical issue has a direct negative effect on Floridians and families across our nation, and hurts low- and fixed-income Americans the most,'' Mr. Scott said in a news release last week. ''It's time for Biden to wake up from his liberal dream and realize that reckless spending has consequences, inflation is real and America's debt crisis is growing. Inflation is rising and Americans deserve answers from Biden now.''

Economic teams in recent administrations spent little time worrying about inflation, because inflationary pressures have been tame for decades. It has fallen short of the Fed's average target of 2 percent for 10 of the last 12 years, topping out at 2.5 percent in the midst of the longest economic expansion in history.

Shortly before the pandemic recession hit the United States in 2020, President Donald J. Trump's economic team wrote that ''price inflation remains low and stable'' even with unemployment below 4 percent. As the economy struggled to climb out from the 2008 financial crisis under President Barack Obama, White House aides feared that prices might fall, instead of rise.

''Given the economic crisis, we worried about preventing deflation rather than inflation,'' said Austan Goolsbee, a chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers during Mr. Obama's first term.

The conversation has changed given the large amounts of money that the federal government is channeling into the economy, first under Mr. Trump and now under Mr. Biden. Since the pandemic took hold, Congress has approved more than $5 trillion in spending, including direct checks to individuals.

Mr. Biden's aides are sufficiently worried about the risk of that spending fueling inflation that they shaped his infrastructure proposal, which has yet to be taken up by Congress, to funnel out $2.3 trillion over the course of eight years, which is slower than traditional stimulus.

Even before Mr. Summers and others raised economic concerns about Mr. Biden's $1.9 trillion relief bill, officials were wrestling with their own worries about its inflation risks. They had internally concluded, with direction from Mr. Biden, that the biggest risk to the economy was going ''too small'' on the aid package—not spending enough to help vulnerable Americans survive continued stints of joblessness or lost income. But they wanted to know the risks of going ''too big.''

They tested whether an uptick in inflation might cause people and financial markets to expect rapid price increases in the years to come, upending decades of what economists call ''well-anchored'' expectations for prices and potentially creating a situation where higher expectations led to higher inflation. They estimated the odds that the Fed would react to such moves by quickly and steeply raising interest rates, potentially slamming the brakes on growth and causing another recession.

The informal group that initially gathered to research those questions included Mr. Bernstein, a member of the Council of Economic Advisers; David Kamin, a deputy director of the National Economic Council; Michael Pyle, Vice President Kamala Harris's chief economic adviser; and two Treasury officials, Nellie Liang and Ben Harris. More members have joined over time, including Mr. Tedeschi.

The group reports regularly to Ms. Yellen and other senior officials including Brian Deese, who heads the N.E.C., and Cecilia Rouse, who leads the C.E.A. Its work has informed economic briefings of Mr. Biden and Ms. Harris.

''The president and the vice president, their job is to deliver good economic outcomes for the American people,'' Mr. Pyle said in an interview. ''Part of what delivering strong economic outcomes to the American people means is ensuring that their team is fully on top of both the tailwinds to the U.S. economy but also the risks that are out there. And this is one of them.''

Mr. Pyle and his colleagues looked at financial market measures of inflation expectations, including one called the five-year, five-year forward, which currently shows investors expecting lower inflation levels over the next several years than they expected in 2018.

At the same time, officials at the Treasury's Office of Economic Policy conducted a series of modeling exercises to ''stress test'' the virus relief package and how it might change those price and expectation measures if put in place. They considered scenarios where consumers quickly spent their aid money, which included $1,400 checks, or where they did not spend much of it at all right away. They talked with large banks about trends in customers' cash balances and how quickly people were returning to the work force. Ms. Yellen, a former Fed chair, helped adjust the models herself.

The exercises produced a wide range of possibilities for inflation. But they never suggested it would rise so rapidly that the Fed could not easily handle it by adjusting interest rates or other monetary policy tools. They saw no risk of a sharp return to recession—and no reason to pull back from spending proposals that administration officials believe will help the economy heal faster and help historically disadvantaged groups, like Black and Hispanic workers, regain jobs and income.

''We're going to see some heat in this economy,'' Mr. Pyle said. ''That heat is going to be good and redound to the benefit of wages and labor market conditions overall and particularly for a number of communities that have been at the margins of the labor market for too long.''

If the data proves that forecast wrong, officials say privately, they will be quick to adapt. But they will not say how. If inflation were to accelerate in a sustained and surprising way, some officials suggest, the administration would trust the Fed to step in to contain it.

There is no plan, as of yet, for Mr. Biden to consider inflation-fighting actions of his own.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. The content and conclusions of these meetings and working groups have not been disclosed or been made available to the public.

While privately worrying about the same issue I have been sounding the alarm on for months, the Biden administration continues to mislead the American public and ignore the threat of inflation.

Over the last 2 months, I have asked the National Economic Council about its plans to fight inflation and protect American families.

I have written a Federal Reserve member, asked him what can be done to help families who are seeing skyrocketing gas prices and increasing mortgage rates.

I have called on President Biden and Federal Reserve Chair Powell to lay out their clear plan to address inflation and rising prices that threaten American families. I have yet to get a straightforward or acceptable response. I have yet to hear them acknowledge this very real threat or propose a solution to protect families.

So today Senator BRAUN and I are making a simple request that the Biden administration share with the Senate all of its notes, memos, and reports regarding their discussions and plans to mitigate and prevent growing inflation.

Inflation is a very real threat to the well-being of already struggling families, and the last thing American families need is to be misled by this administration.

Right now, Democrats in Washington are living in a fantasyland where debt doesn't matter, spending has no consequences, inflation is impossible.

But the reality is that inflation does have consequences, and it is the duty of everyone here, especially the President of the United States, to be open and transparent with the American people about what is happening with inflation.

There is no reason the Biden administration should be hiding this information. Americans deserve to know the consequences of massive government spending, and they deserve leadership that will show some fiscal responsibility when it comes to their taxpayer dollars.

I look forward to all my colleagues supporting this effort to increase transparency.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 185, submitted earlier today. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The senior Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, reserving the right to object, no serious economists across the ideological spectrum are concerned about inflation right now. No one is hiding information at the White House.

I am in meetings all the time with White House officials talking about this package. No one believes—first of all, no one is hiding information. No one believes what the Senator, the junior Senator from Florida, is saying about this.

Perhaps some millionaire Senators want to make this into an issue, and I hear that over and over and over, but I talk to people like Jay Powell, Chair of the Federal Reserve, nominated by President Trump for that position. He, of course, keeps his eye on these kinds of things, but he has expressed no strong concern about inflation.

And we even know that when some experts have been concerned, they have been wrong. We saw what happened in 2008 after too many elites worried about inflation. What we really needed was to increase wages and get people back to work. The result from 2008 was a recovery that was too slow for most people, while so many of these big costs continued to rise.

Our economy looks a whole lot better today than it did last year, but we can't compare where we are today with where we were last year. We were on the brink of a once-in-a-generation health and economic crisis at this time last year. Millions of people, mostly low-wage workers, lost their jobs. Our economy ground to a halt as we tried to stop the spread of the virus.

This year, we have made good progress with the American Rescue Plan, as the Presiding Officer from Wisconsin knows, getting shots in arms and money in pockets and kids back in school, people back to work.

But our recovery is far from over. Just moments ago Fed Chair Powell said that we are seeing some temporary upticks because things were so dire last year, but we still have a long way to go.

The bigger risk to the economy is not doing enough to raise workers' wages and to invest in the infrastructure that allows our economy to grow.

We know corporate leaders, we know millionaire Senators, we know people at the top have done very—in many cases, have done very, very well through this, but we know millions of workers, many of them hourly workers, have lost jobs. We know millions of workers, so-called essential workers—one essential worker said to me, works in a grocery store: I don't feel essential. Frankly, I feel expendable because they don't pay me much; they don't protect me at work. Those are the people we should be looking after.

I want to raise wages. I want to bring down costs. That is exactly what the jobs plan and the family plan will do—bring down healthcare costs, make childcare more affordable, create more housing people can afford, bring down energy bills, make work—getting to work cheaper and easier with better transit. These are the costs that have been rising and eating away at family budgets for decades.

If my colleague from Florida is so concerned about the cost of living and raising a family, I hope he will join me to allow Medicare to negotiate directly with drug companies to bring down prices for seniors. I hope he will join us in investing in childcare to bring down the cost of childcare. I hope he will join us as we work to create more housing, bringing down housing costs. I hope he will join us to raise the minimum wage.

My first speech on this floor 14 years ago—14 years ago, my first speech on this floor was to raise the minimum wage, and we did, and it hasn't been raised since. That is what the Senator from Florida and the Senator from Indiana can help us with.

But we know most of the conservative elites in this country—most won't say out loud what this inflation alarmism is really about. They don't want to invest in the American people. They don't want to do anything to make Americans' hard work pay off. They would rather try to scare people: Can't spend this money because there might be inflation.

They don't want us to do what too many have failed to do: put money in people's pockets and raise wages and rebuild infrastructure.

I would ask my colleagues to listen to the words of a worker from West Virginia, Pamela Garrison. She testified at our first-ever work listening session, our ''Dignity of Work'' session in the Banking and Housing Committee yesterday. She said:

> We're seeing corporations make billions every quarter in profit, but then when we ask for a minimum wage raise, we're told that ''no that will raise the cost of stuff, oh that'll cost jobs.''

Funny, corporate executives never seem to say they will have to raise prices when they give themselves bonuses. It is just we will have to raise prices if we increase the minimum wage.

This same Ms. Garrison also said: You know, they call me part of the working poor. The words ''working'' and ''poor'' shouldn't be in the same sentence, and she is right about that.

Real expenses for most families have gone up for decades, along with corporate profits and the stock market. Executive compensation has exploded upward, and workers' wages haven't kept up.

Executive compensation—productivity is up. Executive compensation is up. Profits are up. Workers' wages are flat. That is the problem. That is what we should be working on.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The junior Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, the decision by my colleague to block this resolution is clearly disappointing.

Let's remember what this was about. This was about transparency. They just blocked the Senate from requesting basic information that is going to help all Americans.

And just look at these numbers again. Just in the last 4 months, grocery prices are up 2.6 percent; household care is up 5.2 percent; baby care is up 7 percent; general merchandise up 7.1 percent. We are clearly seeing inflation.

Senate Democrats just objected to transparency. That means they are against getting the facts, against ensuring accountability, and against getting the American people the information they need to make smart decisions as prices keep rising.

Eighty-seven percent of Americans are worried about the rising costs of goods. Apparently, so is the White House. So don't the American people deserve the same information about what is happening with the economy?

Floridians deserve to know the truth about inflation and so do the people of Ohio. Why does my colleague want to keep them in the dark?

This administration is telling the American people one thing but saying something else behind closed doors. That is wrong.

The American people deserve the truth. Inflation is real. It is happening. It is hurting American families. It is time President Biden does something about it, and I am extremely disappointed my colleague is actually today helping the President mislead the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, today we mark Workers Memorial Day, when we honor and remember workers who have laid down their lives on the job.

I have worn on my lapel since I was in the House, a pin depicting a canary in a bird cage given to me at a Workers Memorial Day rally in Lorain, OH, in the late 1990s.

This pin depicts a canary going down in the mine. It suggests the mine worker taking a canary down in the mines. If the canary died from lack of oxygen or from toxic gas, the mine worker got out of the mines. He had no union strong enough to protect him and no government that cared enough to protect him in those days.

To me, this pin represents the role of government to support the middle class and those who aspire to the middle class. It represents the progress we have made and the society we continue to fight for every day here.

We know the story. Coal miners took the canary down into the mines. Throughout the 20th century, we have worked to change that. We passed workers safety laws and overtime pay. We banned child labor. We passed clean air and safe drinking water laws. We enacted Social Security and Medicare and workers' rights and women's rights and civil rights.

But despite that progress over the last year, too many workers have felt a whole lot like those miners. They have felt like they are on their own.

A moment ago, I mentioned a grocery store worker in Cincinnati, who said: ''They tell me I am essential, but I feel expendable.''

That grocery store worker and thousands of others have been on the frontlines of this pandemic, risking their lives so Americans could keep food on their table and get their packages delivered. They were changing linens in hospitals and driving buses and stocking shelves in supermarkets.

Then workers go home at night and are anxious that they might spread the virus and infect their family.

We know that hundreds of thousands of workers have been exposed to the virus on the job. Thousands have died. It is hard to get an exact count of how many because the previous administration didn't bother to keep track.

We know that food and commercial workers reported last summer that more than 16,000 grocery store workers have been exposed, more than 100 have died. We know those numbers keep going up.

The National Nurses United has recorded at least 3,200 healthcare workers have died. In meatpacking plants, the toll has been horrific.

Last summer, 16,000 workers had been infected; the vast majority of them Black and Brown workers. More than 230 died.

And yet all of last year, the Trump administration and too many large corporations failed to protect their workers. The corporate lawyers that ran the Labor Department from the top down refused to issue workplace safety requirements.

Corporations ran a lot of feel-good TV ads saying thank you to essential workers, claiming these workers are the heart of their companies, but workers didn't ask for a PR campaign. They needed protections on the job.

This Workers Memorial Day, today—we celebrate it every year—we remember the American workers who have lost their lives on the job from this virus, sometimes from gun violence, sometimes from workplace accidents.

We honor them best by fighting to protect these workers and their fellow workers to make their hard work pay off.

Yesterday, in the Banking and Housing Committee, we held the committee's first-ever listening session. It was purely a listening session. No Senators got to ask questions. We just came to listen, with workers from Ohio and around the country, to hear how the financial system affects their jobs and their lives.

They shared powerful stories about their work, about how companies and economic policies prevent their hard work from paying off.

We heard from a distribution worker in Ashtabula County, OH. He told us:

> We rarely go a few weeks without an injury, largely because of the insane pace we work at. We have suggested that slowing the pace even just a little would improve safety and could save money, to which we were told, ''Injuries don't cost the company much money.''

We heard from a Wells Fargo call center worker who talked about how the bank misclassified her to avoid paying overtime. They put her on salary. They said she was management. They worked her more than 40 hours. They never paid her an overtime dollar.

We heard from a full-time gig worker who works for multiple corporations like Uber and Instacart. He works full time. He has zero benefits because these companies claim he is an independent contractor.

We heard from a Michigan worker who lost her job when a private equity firm bought out her company. They laid off 3,100 workers in the Detroit area, and they pocketed the money.

We heard from a worker in West Virginia who talked about working her whole life and never seeing that hard work pay off. She said the term ''working poor'' should not be two words that go together.

If you work hard, you should be able to get ahead in this country. If you love this country, you fight for the people who make it work.

If even the global pandemic, where America's workers have been on the frontlines—if even that won't get corporations to rethink their business model that treats workers as expendable, it is time to stop letting them run the economy. That is what the new Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee is all about. Wall Street had its chance. They failed. If corporate America won't deliver for its workers, then we have to create a better system centered on the dignity of work. That means safe workplaces.

The Biden administration is taking steps toward finally issuing an OSHA emergency temporary standard. We went a whole year in the pandemic where the President of the United States simply refused and the corporate lawyer who ran the Department of Labor simply refused to issue any standards on workplace safety. Think about that. Now it means laws and policies will reward work, like the earned income tax credit and the child tax credit—the junior Senator from New Hampshire is here and has been supportive of that; a strong overtime rule; ending misclassification that robs workers of their wages and their rights. It means a strong labor movement. Unions give people power on the job. People ought to have the option, if they choose, of joining a union, allowing them to join together to make their workplace safer.

It is workers who make our economy successful. It is workers who allow corporations and Wall Street investors to rake in record profits. It is time for that hard work to pay off for all workers, no matter if you punch a clock or work for salary or work for tips or take care of your parents or take care of