The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:
WASHINGTON, DC, January 10, 2023.
I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM MCCONTOCK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.
KEVIN MCCARTHY, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

WORKFORCE VERSUS LABOR
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, words matter, and ideas have consequences. That is why House Republicans are once again changing the name of the Committee I now chair to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Every time Democrats take control of the House, they swap out the word “workforce” for “labor.” This back and forth is at the core of Republicans’ and Democrats’ differing views on the concept of work.

The Bible tells us that when God created Adam and Eve, He gave them the garden to cultivate and animals to name. This was work. Being made in the image of God means that we, like Him, have the capacity to build, create, and bring order from chaos.

Using our God-given gifts, mankind has done just that. This ability to work and create is something to celebrate, not lament.

Influenced by Marxism, the left prefers to call work labor. This is a mistake. I reject the idea that work freely done is toil. I reject the idea that work freely done is a curse. I embrace the idea that having the opportunity to provide for one’s family is a blessing.

Even those who do not adhere to a Biblical worldview can see empirically that men and women are at their best when they get to work.

Work is fundamental to a lasting sense of fulfillment. As a small business owner myself, I know there is nothing better than the feeling you get when you look at something you have built with your own hands and ingenuity.

I also prefer the word “workforce” over “labor” because all work is of equal value. When the left refers to labor, they aren’t talking about the work of lawyers and doctors but the work of mechanics and welders. Why? For several decades now, our culture has made a distinction between blue-collar and white-collar work that denigrates the former. This is wrong. Allowing the men and women who keep our homes heated and our cars running “laborers” degrades their contribution to society.

We must recognize that there is more than one path to the American Dream. Working in a high-rise office building is not of greater value than the window washer cleaning that building. Each plays a pivotal role in keeping our economy running.

“Labor” also implies that workers do not have a choice in who they work for or what conditions they work in. In the United States, we live in a free society, and workers have freedom to choose for whom they work. If an employer is unfair or unjust, workers have the freedom to find a different employer and to seek recompense.

Yet the left uses the word “labor” to pit workers against employers, all in the hopes of bringing about more government control and a radical redistribution of wealth.

The United States is the most prosperous country in history because of our free market, but embracing socialist policies and views would destroy that.

Democrats also insist on using the word “labor” because they are beholden to Big Labor. Democrats have made it clear that they wish to force all Americans into unions, regardless of their preference.

When Democrats oversee this committee, their efforts focus on bolstering union bosses at the expense of employee free choice. This myopic view serves only a small spectrum of the workforce, as the majority of workers choose not to be in a union.

On the other hand, Republicans are committed to supporting the entire workforce. We do not support a one-size-fits-all model and understand that work is as diverse as the people doing it.

So when I talk about the workforce, I am talking about all the men and women who take pride in their work.

When I talk about the workforce, I am talking about all the men and women who work hard to provide for their families. When I talk about the workforce, I am talking about all the men and women who have gained the skills necessary to be productive and self-sufficient citizens.

Under my leadership, the Committee on Education and the Workforce will...
serve the entire workforce, no matter what color their collar is, how dirty their hands get when they work, or whether they work independently.

The end of Big Labor, in our hearing room, is over.

FULFILLING OUR COMMITMENT TO AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week, we will take historic steps to reverse the crises created by President Biden’s administration and fulfill our Commitment to America.

For the past 2 years, the Biden administration has chosen to appease the radical left that continues to undermine American families. Now, it is time to change. It is time to return to serving the American people.

Pennsylvania families need results. They do not need empty promises. That is why on day one we voted to stop IRS agents from going after small businesses who are simply trying to follow the law. That is why we will vote to keep American oil from being sold to the Chinese Communist Party. That is why we will vote to support our law enforcement and send the clearest message yet that Republicans will never stand down to defend the police. And we will vote to save the lives of unborn children by finally passing the Born Alive Survivors Protection Act.

These pieces of legislation are the beginning of enacting our Commitment to America. It is time to build an economy that is strong; it is time to fortify a Nation that is safe; and it is time to deliver a government that is accountable. That is our commitment to Pennsylvania families. That is our Commitment to America.

HELPING THE RICH AND POWERFUL AVOID TAXES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, after 4½ days and 15 votes to find a Speaker, we started with our business by passing the Republican and first day’s activities were to help the rich and the powerful avoid taxes.

The government, like any entity, just like any business, has to have revenue. When people don’t pay their fair share, they are cheating. They are committing crimes. They are defrauding their fellow citizens because their fellow citizens either have to pay more money to make up the differences or they don’t get services that they otherwise would be provided through the government.

By revoking all of those monies to the IRS to hire new employees, they are giving wealthy corporations and wealthy individuals, like Donald Trump, who had only one auditor looking at his return, which was not looked at within the time period it was supposed to be looked at under the law, the policy of the government at the time, they are giving those people an open door to make their IRS payments—really not payments but their first offers. That is what they do. It is not filing your return. It is filing your first offer.

So if they get away with that, which I don’t think we will in the Senate, they are depriving the middle class who they said they are trying to support, services and fairness, and the middle class will have to pay more money because it is the wealthy and the higher corporations that get away with fraudulent returns.

Then they are talking about banning or protesting, through H. Con. Res. 3, violence against pro-life centers, anti-abortion centers. I hope everybody in the House is violence against those facilities. But there is nothing in there about violence against Planned Parenthood or abortion provider facilities. Both are equally as anti-American and wrong as the other, but there is nothing about that.

So we are seeing a very slanted agenda, and there is no opportunity to amend that resolution. Even though they talked about an amendment process to give everybody an opportunity, it is really kind of transparency-ish but not transparency and not open. It is not openness; it is open-ish.

You have got to look closely at what is going on here. There are a lot of things that look good on the front but really aren’t fair and right to the majority of the people. Much of what is projected here is to try to maintain the status quo in the name of freedom. It is the freedom of people not to comply with Federal Government laws and regulations. It is the freedom to basically live independent of the law and independent of the Federal government and attempts to starve the Federal Government of the revenue it needs.

The bill yesterday would increase the debt by over $100 billion. That is not fiscal conservativeness. That is trying to starve the Federal Government.

HONORING WALTER RAYMOND BOWERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 95-years-young Walter Raymond Bowers from Jacksonville, Florida.

Walter was born March 16, 1927, in Dayton, Ohio. He moved to Jackson- ville, Florida, as an infant and was raised by his maternal grandmother, Sadie Perry.

When he was 17, Walter joined the United States Navy and served in the Pacific theater during World War II where he earned the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, one star; the World War II Victory Medal; the American Campaign Ribbon; and the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, five stars.

After the war, Walter was assigned to the USS Pine Island and participated in Operation Highjump, which established the Antarctic research base known as Little America IV.

At the rank of boiler technician III 3rd class, Raymond Bowers was honorably discharged from the Navy on July 19, 1948. Just one week later, on July 26, 1948, he married Mary Dopson, the love of his life and mother of their three children: Walter, Jr., Margaret, and Paul.

Walter returned to Jacksonville and enlisted in the Naval Reserves where he served for 8 more years. He then began working for the city of Jacksonville road department where he spent 20 years of faithful service.

His and Mary’s dedication surrendered their lives to Christ in 1950, which led him to a new calling, one of a real ministry.

Walter joined A.B. Wainwright, and for 18 years they were planting and pastoring Pentecostal churches all across Jacksonville. Even after his professional retirement in 1968, Walter continued this ministry by planting a new church in Jacksonville’s Dinsmore community. He started Wayside Assembly of God in 1973 where he served as senior pastor for more than 35 years.

His commitment to our Lord Jesus, his family, his community, and his country have contributed to this incredible legacy. May God continue to richly bless Walter for his amazing life of selfless service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FREDA FLANSBURG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. HERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my mother, Freda Flansburg.

My mom was born on March 5, 1944, and peacefully passed away last week, last Monday, January 2, 2023, at 12:20 a.m.

She was truly a fighter. She lost a child, my older sister, Kimberly, just 9 months. She fought the loneliness of being a mom of two boys while my dad was away on multiple deployments to Vietnam. When the weariness of war destroyed our family, she started a new journey in life that traversed many unplanned hardships.

Life was truly tough as we grew up. My siblings, Jeff, John, Jayme, and Kia, knew from an early age that our life was different from those around us. We had no running water, no indoor plumbing. Times were tough.

My mom worked to do the best she could to provide for us. She never backed down from the challenges that came before her.
She never cared much for us using our life lessons as excuses. Rather, she pushed us to use our experiences to become better and to keep moving on.

Like all moms, she was an encourager. As the oldest child, she looked to me to set the example for my brothers and sisters. She wasn’t sympathetic when things weren’t going my way.

The world is full of opportunities, she would say. The challenge was always: go to school, make good grades, work hard, treat people with respect, and see where life takes you. The government will never make you wealthy, she said. You will have to do that on your own, she would always tell me.

My mom was a nurse and spent long hours taking care of the elderly in nursing homes. Many of my visits with my mom over the years were in the skilled nursing facilities as she would take a break from the grueling work schedule that she had demanded so much of her.

After the long years of losing a child, raising five children, being a grandmother of countless grandchildren, and the arduous work of being a nurse, my mom’s body had withered away. Her heart had tired, and her eyes could no longer see. The last 4 years have been especially hard for me to watch her health rapidly decline.

My mom took her last breath on this earthly world. We all know she is in Heaven looking down upon us with Kimberly by her side. Her heart is strong, and her eyes are new.

I especially thank the nurses and doctors who cared for my mother in her last months, and days. You will never be forgotten.

I thank my congressional colleagues for their kind words, sincere thoughts, and prayers over the last week. I was by the outpouring of love from both Republicans and Democrats over the past week. I thank Democratic Leader JEFFRIES, Caucus Chair AGUILAR, and so many of my Democratic colleagues for setting politics aside and offering quiet condolences.

To all of my Republican colleagues, I simply want to say thank you. From Leader SCALISE, who contacted me immediately upon hearing the news, to the members of our freshman class, thank you all.

Finally, I thank my loving wife, Tammy, and my children, Ashlyn, Kelby, and Kaden, for their warmth and love during these difficult times.

To my mom in Heaven above, I simply want to say, I love you, and I miss you.

RECOGNIZING THE PELLA MARCHING DUTCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pella Marching Dutch of Pella High School, who recently participated in the Rose Bowl Parade.

Each year, only 21 bands across the world receive an invitation to play in the parade. The Pella Marching Dutch have joined the ranks as one of the greatest marching bands of our time.

This is not the first time the Pella Marching Dutch have received this high honor, having appeared in the parade in 1988 and 2002. I was fortunate enough to watch the Marching Dutch on Monday, and I was amazed by the talent that was demonstrated by the students at Pella High School.

I congratulate the Pella Marching Dutch again on representing Iowa in the Rose Parade, and I look forward to watching their future performances.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, how ‘bout them Dawgs?

It is an honor this morning to rise and deliver my first speech on the floor of the people’s House, and what a special occasion it is.

After last night’s resounding victory, it is clear that the Georgia Bulldogs haven’t gotten tired of winning.

I congratulate the University of Georgia, especially the players, who left it all on the field during practice and the games and earned another championship last night.

Because of their passion and talent, the number one State for business is now the number one State for college football for the second year in a row.

As the Representative for Georgia’s 10th District, the proud home of the University of Georgia, I could not be prouder of the team or happier for our State because the Dawgs are on top of the SEC and all of college football once again.

Go Dawgs.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, it was difficult to yield—I had to pause a little bit, as a TCU Horned Frog—to my colleague, but in the spirit of camaraderie, I did so.

UNLEASHING AMERICAN ENERGY DOMINANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Protecting America’s Strategic Petroleum Reserve from China Act, which will work to unleash American energy dominance.

In an election-year gimmick, President Biden raided oil from our Strategic Petroleum Reserve, depleting it to its lowest level in decades and allowing it to be sold to a company controlled with the Chinese Communist Party.

Selling off American oil to the Chinese Communist Party for its own strategic use poses a direct threat to our national security. The petroleum reserve is our insurance card. It is to be used to protect our great country during national emergencies or weather events. Depleting it is dangerous, and restocking it at higher prices is foolish.

Let’s restore some sanity here. Protect America and end the foolish practice of sending oil to our enemies that would hate us for free.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to pass this important legislation this week to stop this reckless, America-last practice from happening again.

CONGRATULATING THE ALLEGHANY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS’ CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Alleghany High School girls’ cross-country team for winning their Class 2 State championship. This victory marks the first-ever Alleghany High School girls’ team to win a State title.

By training hard, staying motivated, and keeping the pressure on, the Mountaineers left it all on the track, tallying a total of 65 points.

These talented athletes include Kiera Lowman, Gracie Barron, Macyn Cash, Meredith Minter, Lucy Nicely, Alivia Hoover, and Bryce Leitch.

Freshman Kiera Lowman blazed to the finish line with an impressive time of 18 minutes and 59 seconds, becoming the first-ever freshman to win the individual State title.

Two other top-10 finishes from Alleghany High School were Gracie Barron and Macyn Cash.

All of these young ladies are a true testament that with hard work and determination, you can achieve your dreams.

Congratulations again to the Mountaineers. Virginia’s Sixth Congressional District is incredibly proud of your accomplishment.

SECURING OUR BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, we have, right now, a situation where the President is visiting the border.

In my line of work, as a young lieutenant, I flew along the border and knew that there was a problem in the early 1990s. As a matter of fact, in the mid-1990s, as a forward air controller, we had to stop operations at nighttime as vans bouncing around in the middle of our operations made us cease fire so we could chase illegal immigrants out of our firing ranges. Then, as an emergency medicine doctor, I treated patients who came here illegally.

Most people don’t realize the consequences of our actions, of our poor border security, and what it has done. We understand the numbers. We understand the millions that are coming across the border. 4 million since we have had a new President, but not the downwind consequences when you provide laws that encourage bad behavior and punish good behavior.
One of the things that most people don’t realize is that when you go to the emergency room and are waiting in line behind a lot of people who came here illegally, you are not only waiting in line behind them but you are also paying for their bills. Many people coming across the border to receive treatment for their chronic illnesses that cost millions of dollars per year, and those are several patients per hospital. We are talking about billions, even trillions of billions of dollars, spent on people who come here the wrong way. It comes from taxpayer money, both out of your pocket and through your taxation, which adds to our debt, which, of course, is going to be paid for by our children.

To make it worse, we punish those people who come here the right way. In my district, we have a huge immigrant population, people who come here from all over the world, whether it be India, Europe, and the like. They have to wait in line with a glutted immigration policy that makes it very difficult for them to follow the law. Meanwhile, we reward those people who break the law.

I think we need to change our laws. I think we need to make it more streamlined for people who follow the law, who are good citizens, who paid their taxes, who have jobs, who create jobs, and make it more difficult for people who break laws.

I think, right now, when you talk about the overwhelming number of people coming across the border, and when you have the President go down there and have the borders cleaned up so he can view something that doesn’t really exist, which is a problem where we don’t protect our sovereign border, which is one of the President’s main responsibilities; where you have people’s properties violated; where you have people’s rights violated; where you have crimes.

Of course, as an emergency medicine physician, this last year I lost four patients in from fentanyl overdoses that I was not able to revive. Now, almost every single night, I do revive somebody, so it is something I literally witness almost every single shift, usually several times per shift.

The opioid crisis is real, and it is something that is killing over 100,000 Americans per year. Every year, we are setting a new record, and we have done nothing of consequence to really stem that tide.

I think it is with the greatest earnest appeal to my fellow Republicans and Democrats that we watch after our own house. It is okay to be compassionate. It is okay to reach out and help people, but we have to do it the right way.

Most importantly, we have to make laws that encourage good behavior, that people coming here are rewarded for following the laws. They are rewarded with citizenship when they do the right thing, and we are punishing people who come here with ill intent.

Finally, I would like to point out that we are experiencing diseases here in America we haven’t seen in decades. Where is it coming from? It is because we don’t have good screening procedures. It used to be, to come to America, you couldn’t even come here if you had influenza. Now you can come here with every kind of disease process there is, and we will never even know that you are even here.

If you look at the terrorists coming across the border—we know that we have at least nine terrorists we have caught in the last month, but we don’t know how many got away. It is because we have poor border security.

So, it is not just for one thing; it is for many things that we need to secure our border, make sure that we are a sovereign Nation, and follow the law.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MARK BUTLER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mark Butler and his service to the State of Georgia as our Commissioner of Labor. Mark has dedicated his entire life to serving the great State of Georgia. He served in the Georgia State House of Representatives for 8 years, where he had the distinct honor of being my suitemate.

In January 2011, Mark became Georgia’s ninth Commissioner of Labor, and the first Republican to head the department.

Since Mark’s first election, he has implemented many programs designed to improve the agency’s relationships with employers, jobseekers, and Georgia’s future workforce.

In 2013, he formed the Business Service Unit. This program was designed to foster mutually beneficial relationships with Georgia’s employers and economic developers.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. I rise today to recognize and honor my friend, Jon Burns, for becoming the new Speaker of the Georgia State House of Representatives.

Jon has dedicated his entire life to serving the great State of Georgia. He was elected to the Georgia State House in 2004. During his first session in the Georgia State House, Jon and I were suitemates. Since then, I have enjoyed getting to know Jon and his family and he has become a close friend.

In 2015, Jon was chosen to serve as the Georgia House majority leader and would eventually be elected as the 74th Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives. During his time in the State legislature, Jon has worked to bring environmentally balanced economic development, world-class healthcare, quality education, and improved education to Georgians.

There is no one more deserving of the speakership than Jon Burns. I look forward to seeing all that he can accomplish and wish him a long and successful tenure.

On behalf of myself and the First District of Georgia, I thank him for all he does.

RECOGNIZING THIAGO ALMADA

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Georgia’s Archway Partnership on their recent award, the C. Peter Magrath Award for Community Engagement.

This award is the highest award for public service bestowed by the national Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. The University of Georgia’s Archway Partnership is nationally recognized for the resources and expertise it provides to rural communities.

Since its founding in 2005, the program’s partnership has attracted hundreds of faculty and over 1,500 students to help Georgia communities secure more economic development opportunities. Programs like these are critical to ensuring that all areas of the State, rural and urban, can grow and take advantage of their unique situations.

They also give students the opportunity to face real-world problems. From economic development to preventative healthcare to broadening access and more, this partnership works to solve the most pressing issues of our time.

Additionally, this award comes with a $20,000 prize, which will be used to broaden the scope of what the partnership can take on.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Jere Morehead on his leadership at the university and in this program. I am proud of the work that the faculty and students at my alma mater have done to build up the rural communities around our State.

On behalf of the entire First District of Georgia, I thank them for their efforts.

RECOGNIZING THIAGO ALMADA

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thiago Almada as the first Major League Soccer player to win the World Cup. Thiago was on the Argentinean team that won a thrilling 4-2 penalty shootout over France to win the World Cup. Argentina’s win gave Lionel Messi his first World Cup trophy, which has eluded his stor ybook career.

When he is not representing Argentina, Thiago plays for Georgia’s Atlanta United. During the 2022 season, Thiago started 25 of 29 games and scored six goals. He also had 12 assists and 77 on-target scoring attempts. In
2022, he was named the MLS Newcomer of the Year.

During the World Cup, Thiago made one appearance playing 6 minutes against Poland in the Group C finale. At just 21 years old, Thiago has a long career ahead of him. Congratulations, Thiago. Continue to make Germany proud.

PROTECT BORN ALIVE BABIES

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

Mrs. McClain. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the unborn; for the protection and the defense of the most vulnerable among us.

I stand here today because this week the Republican majority is doing what the previous Congress refused to do, and that is uphold the right to life.

For far too long we have seen pro-life facilities closed and broken into. For far too long we have watched as Democrats refuse to protect born alive babies. Think about that for a moment. These babies are born alive, breathing outside the womb, and the Democrats want to kill them. They do not protect them.

This week, we right those wrongs and we defend life in America. It is well past time for the United States Congress, for this body, to uphold the guarantees laid out in the Declaration of Independence and CDP doing on the Sacramento River side that has changed?

These dams were designed to withstand 5 years of drought, being full as recently as 2019. We had one running out in 2021 and the other basically being useless almost to agriculture in 2022, with drastic cuts all up and down the Sacramento River system.

What is going on here? What is the Water Project doing on the Feather River side, et cetera?

What is the Federal Bureau of Reclamation and CDP doing on the Sacramento River side that has changed?

These agencies are holding everything they can to hold water, even in drought years, that they could be holding. Why?

It is a mystery. We have the opportunity right now with these high flows. We have areas of California right in the Sacramento Valley that are being flooded out. They are running the pumps that are at the south end of the delta at about 18 percent on the State side and about 67 percent—not so bad—on the Federal level instead of taking full advantage of running those pumps as hard as they can and taking this excess water and reliving some of the flooding and putting it into a reservoir that will help our whole State withstand possible drought in the future.

Is this a drought year? No, not as defined by lack of rainfall, as indeed we are at average, or we are above average in some areas. With the projection in January for a lot more rain coming, we might have a full normal water year or above. That would be good.

Our leaders in government in the agencies don’t seem to feel the same urgency. At the same time they are talking about we have flood emergencies, they are still maintaining we have drought emergencies—not with this kind of rainfall.

Yes, we have low-lake problems, but that isn’t how you define a drought. That is how you define lake management. That is how you define water management. It is not helping. We need to be running, at least, those two sets of pumps at 99 percent or 100 percent at the delta and filling up the San Luis Reservoir and allocating water to those who need it and we are having in the San Joaquin Valley that everybody is worried about wouldn’t be happening.

No, they want to just keep chugging along the way they are doing, especially on the State side. This is a disservice to all water users in California.

At the same time, they don’t really see a whole lot of need to cut back on environmental water that is very dubious in nature, if it is helping fish in the delta or anywhere else.

Indeed, they need a change of attitude at all of these levels of water management. These agencies don’t seem to be on the side of growing food. I always bring this poster along so people can understand how much of their food is grown in California, a high percentage of these crops that only come from California that Americans consume.

If it is not grown in California, either you are not going to have it or you are going to have to import it from somewhere else.

Look at this: walnuts. Walnuts are having a devil of a time right now in their market. Tomatoes. If you want tomato paste for your pizza and your pasta, where is it going to come from? We are going to have to import all this stuff.

We need to have a much stronger and much smarter water policy, and that starts right in California, and it benefits the whole country.

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 10 o’clock and 41 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. Smith of Nebraska) at noon.

PRAYER

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

On this day, O Lord our God, give us a fresh anointing, a sure sense of purpose and protection, as we execute the responsibilities You and the American people have entrusted to us.

And with Your Spirit in our midst, may we each walk in humility, with a healthy sense of our strengths and our weaknesses, our unique gifts and our vulnerabilities.

May we walk in gentleness, with the power we could wield under the authority of Your purpose. Guard us against our own inclinations to dominate or defend. But spur us to engage in kind disagreements and civil conversation.

Help us to walk in patience, to bear one another in love, a love born of selflessness and mercy, respect and forbearance.
God and creator of us all, You are above all and through all and in all. May we each give testimony to the grace and peace to be found in You. We offer this prayer in Your most holy name.

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 Georgia (Mr. McCormick) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McCORMICK 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.

TAX RELIEF FOR DISASTER VICTIMS

(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, victims of disaster don’t need to be hassled by government, especially by new taxes.

The 2018 Camp fire in California was the deadliest and most destructive in our State’s history. The Fire Victim Trust was set up to compensate these people for their loss and help them rebuild their homes and their lives. However, these fire victims had to deal with the possibility that some of their settlement money and money for attorney’s fees that they would pay would be taxed as income by the IRS.

To prevent the further victimization of these folks who lost so much already, Representative THOMPSON and I have introduced a bill to exempt payments from the Fire Victim Trust from being taxed by the IRS.

The bill received bipartisan support in the House and Senate, but was not included in the end-of-session vehicle last year, unfortunately. So, getting this bill passed and signed into law is very important and right.

The survivors need this money to help get their lives going again. They don’t need the government as a partner in the middle taking their cut. It is essential we act quickly so that they can get back to their lives and get the dollars moving toward rebuilding their homes and whatever it is they need from having suffered this already.

FOSTERING BETTER CONNECTIONS

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, the United States and Canada enjoy a shared border and shared values. We are friends and trading partners.

Unfortunately, in recent years, we have seen a layering of restrictions that hinder binational movement. This not only makes it hard to cross a bridge, but it hinders binational cooperation. It separates us from one another. It stifles trade and diminishes life quality.

Confusion, hassles, and delays prevent travel and inhibit travel plans.

As President Biden and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meet today to discuss our future, I urge them to leverage our strengths to craft solutions that make it easier for us to connect between two countries, fostering better connections, a better economy, and a better life quality.

GRATEFUL FOR NEW LEADERSHIP

(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, I am grateful that with a new Congress is new leadership.

Congratulations to Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY.

Speaker McCarthy has a proven record of accomplishments for the American people, and his leadership will be enhanced with Majority Leader STEVE SCALISE, Majority Whip TOM EMMER, Republican Conference Chair ELISE STEFANIK, Republican Conference Vice Chair MIKE JOHNSON, National Republican Congressional Committee Chairman RICHARD HUDSON, and Policy Committee Chairman GARY PALMER.

The Republican majority will immediately begin to implement the Commitment to America that Speaker McCarthy coordinated with input from across the country. It promotes an economy that is strong, a Nation that is safe, a future that is built on freedom, and a government that is accountable.

Legislation begins with the Family and Small Business Taxpayer Protection Act, which funds Biden’s army of 87,000 new IRS agents.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who have successfully protected America for 20 years in the global war on terrorism as it continues from Afghanistan’s safe haven to America.

For years, I’ve been concerned about the workforce. In 2019, we passed the H-1B Visa Reform Act to make it easier for us to bring skilled workers to America.

I extend my congratulations and thank County Supervisor Nottoli for his lifelong dedication to public service in Sacramento County. His commitment to the betterment of our region will stand as an example of public service for years to come.

Sacramento County is a better place to live and raise a family because of Don Nottoli’s lifetime of service, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Don Nottoli for his work in our community and his service to our country.

FUNDING OF FOREIGN MINING

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

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, we recently learned that the Biden administration is considering funding mining projects abroad with American tax dollars in order to address our country’s mineral supply concerns.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen this movie before: President Biden looks to other countries to meet our country’s energy needs while our domestic industries are blocked by unnecessary permitting delays and regulatory uncertainty.

If I may offer a suggestion to both the President and my Democratic colleagues, why not in America?

In my home State of Idaho, we have an abundance of resources, including cobalt, gold, silver, tungsten, and antimony. These are essential minerals for the production of batteries, semiconductors, munitions, and countless other essential products.

Instead of looking at countries with hostile motives against America, like Russia and China, to help us meet our demand for critical minerals, we should strengthen our domestic supply chain by enabling the responsible development of our resources at home.
DEFENDING THE UNBORN
(Mr. McCORMICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)
Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of those who defend the unborn.
I join my esteemed colleague, Mike Johnson, in calling out against violence. Not all of us believe in the Bible, but those who do understand that there are over 100 references to a child before it is born.
For those of us who believe that the child is in existence and recognized by God before they are born, wouldn’t it be immoral of those people to not stand up for what they believe is life?
Therefore, I call on all those people who respect those beliefs and respect the Bible, respect their God, that we defend those people in making sure that we don’t have violence, and we call out, as a united body, both Democrats and Republicans, to protect those who stand for what is right.

PRIORITIES FOR SOUTH TEXAS
(Ms. DE LA CRUZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)
Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share my priorities for south Texas.
It is an honor to stand in the people’s House. Being here as a single mother and the granddaughter of a Mexican farmworker shows that all things are possible in America through faith and hard work.
That is why I am proud that my first vote is to protect small businesses in south Texas from IRS overreach, which disproportionately hurts low-income Americans and communities like mine. The last thing we need is 87,000 IRS agents harassing south Texans.
Passing the STRONG Act, Single moms are struggling. Our Border Patrol lacks resources. After a century of one-party control in my district, we still have entire counties without doctors.
I pledge to work in a bipartisan manner to address these issues during my time here: to promote prosperity for all Americans, regardless of their race, gender, or creed; and to keep the American Dream alive for the next generation, so help me God.

CONGRATULATING 2023 FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONS
(Mr. CLYDE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)
Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2023 college football national champions, my alma mater, the University of Georgia Bulldogs.
In a stunning triumph last night, the Georgia Bulldogs defeated the TCU Horned Frogs 65-7, marking the largest margin of victory in bowl game history. After boasting an impressive undefeated record in the regular season, last night’s historic win proved without a doubt that the Dawgs are victorious and on top.
Congratulations to the talented young men that put their all into the game, including a Heisman finalist and four-time College Football Playoff MVP, quarterback Stetson Bennett.
Congratulations to Head Coach Kirby Smart and the entire coaching staff for leading the Georgia Bulldogs in becoming back-to-back national champions.
Go Dawgs.

HONORING DENNY KELLINGTON
(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)
Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Buffalo Bills assistant athletic trainer Denny Kellington for his heroic actions saving the life of Bills safety Damar Hamlin during the Bills’ January 2 matchup against the Cincinnati Bengals.
Kellington graduated from Oklahoma State in 2000 and spent time working for the Denver Broncos, Ohio State, and even worked at New York’s very own Syracuse University. After Hamlin collapsed, Kellington jumped into action and began performing CPR, continuing this life-saving treatment for 9 minutes, saving Hamlin’s life and opening the door for his speedy recovery.
Mr. Speaker, Denny Kellington is a hero. All of New York’s 24th District, the Bills Mafia, and America are forever grateful for his heroism and leadership during a truly terrifying moment.
Due to his valiant actions, I support the calls for the National Football League to make Denny Kellington the first athletic trainer to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.
There is power in prayer, and we are so grateful for Damar’s promising recovery.
Go Bills.

COMMEMORATING THE SERVICE OF RON BUTLER
(Mr. ARRINGTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)
Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate one of west Texas’ best, Ron Butler, on his induction into the 2023 Texas Bankers Hall of Fame. On April 27, Ron will be recognized for his outstanding leadership and service in the banking community.
After graduating from Texas Tech University, Mr. Butler went on to join the First Financial Bank family, where he remained for 30 years, and now serves as vice president and chief administrative officer.
Ron is a dedicated family man. He is passionate about serving his community there in Abilene and is not an avid but a rabid Red Raider fan.

I know his wife, Lorilei, and their two children, Trey and Sydney, are very proud of him, and so am I.
God Bless, guns up, and go west Texas.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE STRATEGIC COMPETITION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY
Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, as the designee of the majority leader, pursuant to House Resolution 5, I call up H. Res. 11, and ask for its immediate consideration.
The Clerk read the title of the resolution.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 5, the resolution is considered read.
The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. Res. 11
Resolved.

SECTION 1. SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE STRATEGIC COMPETITION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT; COMPOSITION.—
(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established in the House of Representatives a Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party (hereinafter in this section referred to as the “Select Committee”).
(2) COMPOSITION.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—The Select Committee shall be composed of not more than 16 Members, Delegates, or the Resident Commissioner appointed by the Speaker, not more than 7 of whom shall be appointed after consultation with the minority leader. The Speaker shall designate one member of the Select Committee as its chair. A vacancy in the membership of the Select Committee shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.
(B) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The Speaker and the minority leader shall be ex officio members of the Select Committee but shall have no vote in the Select Committee and may not be counted for purposes of determining a quorum of the Select Committee.
(C) DESIGNATION OF LEADERSHIP STAFF MEMBERS.—The Speaker and the minority leader each may designate a leadership staff member to assist in their capacity as ex officio members, with the same access to Select Committee meetings, hearings, briefings, and materials as employees of the Select Committee and subject to the same security clearance and confidentiality requirements as staff of the Select Committee.
(b) JURISDICTION; FUNCTIONS.—
(1) LEGISLATIVE JURISDICTION.—The Select Committee shall not have legislative jurisdiction and shall have no authority to take legislative action on any bill or resolution.
(2) INVESTIGATIVE JURISDICTION.—The Select Committee shall be authorized to investigate and submit policy recommendations on the status of the Chinese Communist Party’s economic, technological, and security progress and its competition with the United States. The Select Committee may, at its discretion, hold public hearings in connection with any aspect of its investigative functions.
(c) PROCEDURE.—
The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

General Leave

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 11.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 11, a resolution establishing the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party. This select committee will be charged with addressing the urgent threat to the United States and our allies posed by the Chinese Communist Party.

Mr. Speaker, the ongoing threat posed by Communist China and the fact that the CCP cannot be trusted as a global party has been apparent to the American people for some time.

In 2019, at the request of then-Republican Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY, House Republicans created the China Task Force to review Communist China’s actions and to make policy recommendations to protect U.S. interests against the Chinese Communist Party. Republicans sought to task force bipartisan and extended an open invitation to Democrats to join us. Unfortunately, House Democrats chose not to participate at that time. I hope they do at this time.

The China Task Force ultimately produced a report with more than 400 policy recommendations, many of them bipartisan. Today, we are taking the next logical step with the creation of a select committee empowered to investigate and address the national and economic espionage threat that threatens our very way of life. Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, the Chinese Communist Party has demonstrated time and time again that it is more interested in being America’s foe than America’s friend.

The events of the past 3 years have brought into stark focus how Communist China’s actions affect the United States and the rest of the world. Since the COVID–19 pandemic began inside China’s borders, the world has experienced constant disruptions and chaos. Indeed, Communist China’s approach to the COVID–19 pandemic is emblematic of its approach to many other things: attempting to cover up the pandemic’s existence, resisting all efforts to investigate its origins, committing horrific human rights abuses, and refusing to work productively with the global community to combat the pandemic.

It has also become apparent that far too many economically critical supply chains are tied to China, which threatens our economic and national security. We are dangerously dependent on China for basic building blocks of our economy. The result is shortages of critical products, like semiconductors and rare earth minerals, both of which are largely produced in China today, along with the shortages of pharmaceuticals and personal protective equipment, which threatens our ability to battle future pandemics. Our national and economic security requires us to secure our vulnerable supply chains and, indeed, to bring them back home to America.

Communist China has also undertaken aggressive actions designed to expand their influence both in the United States and abroad. Communist China is a prolific thief of American intellectual property, violating countless patents, and failing to respect international and domestic intellectual property laws.

They have undertaken a systematic effort to infiltrate American colleges and universities through their support of the so-called Confucius Institutes and other organizations designed to spread Chinese propaganda. These pry networks operate both on American soil and in cyberspace. And popular Chinese-owned apps like TikTok spread more propaganda and take massive amounts of Americans’ personal data back to the Chinese Government.

In addition, the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative has spread the tentacles of the so-called People’s Liberation Army throughout the world, particularly in the developing world, and it has ensnared dozens of developing countries in debt-trap diplomacy.

Communist China continues to aggressively push into the South China Sea and militarize small islands, threatening freedom of navigation in this strategically important region. They relentlessly and aggressively provoke Taiwan, an island that demonstrates to the world what a free, democratic, and capitalist China could look like.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is Communist China is a serious, generational threat that we must address before it is too late. China exhibits expanding economic and military power coupled with the uncompromising rejection of our values and those of our allies.

That is why the Select Committee on Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party is so important. It will be charged with reviewing our economic dependence on China and restoring safe and secure supply chains, on reviewing China’s actions toward the United States and our allies, on restoring American and personal protective measures to protect them against Chinese infiltration and propaganda, and so much more.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members on both sides of the aisle to join me in support of this resolution so we can secure united against Communist China.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.
Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I think before I begin, I would just like to ask any of my Republican colleagues whether anybody found the secret three-page memo detailing all the concessions that were made to the most extreme elements of their Republican Conference?

Anyone?

Mr. Speaker, I heard that Speaker McCarthy told Members during a closed conference meeting that there is no official document or three-page addendum to the House rules package detailing these concessions. None of us ever said it was official. If it was official, it would have been in the official rules package.

I also took note of the fact that in Axios today we saw this. It says: “One thing the document doesn’t contain, according to NRCC Chair Richard Hudson, who said he’s seen it, is promised committee chairmanships for specific Members: ‘No names, just representation on panels.’”

So we were able to find out from Mr. Hudson what is not in that secret memo, but it would be helpful maybe before the end of the day if we could actually get the document so that the American people know what was promised.

Mr. Speaker, China has the second largest economy in the world, and there is no doubt that their government seeks to extend their sphere of influence and export their model of authoritarianism abroad.

The question is: How should the United States respond?

For the past 4 years, I have served as chair and co-chair of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China. We have monitored China’s compliance with international human rights and rule of law standards.

Under my leadership, alongside Senators Jeff Merkley, Marco Rubio, and Congressman Chris Smith, the Commission has continued to focus attention on the Chinese Government’s human rights violations and technology-enhanced authoritarianism.

We passed my bill, the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, which seeks to address the genocide in Xinjiang, and we hope can serve as a model for future human rights legislation.

We passed the Tibet Policy and Support Act to support the people of Tibet in their struggle against Chinese repression, and the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act to require the U.S. Government to impose sanctions against mainland China and Hong Kong officials considered responsible for human rights abuses in Hong Kong.

Now, everything that we accomplished at the CECC has been because that Commission operates in a bipartisan manner with nonpartisan staff. Our comprehensive annual reports are widely respected by government officials, academics, and the advocacy community because they are well-researched and they are fact-based.

That brings us to today. Mr. Speaker, we are here to consider the creation of a select committee. This select committee on China would investigate and submit policy recommendations on the status of China’s economy, technology, human rights, and security progress, as well as its ongoing competition with the United States.

I will be honest. I have reservations here. Many of us have concerns about this districting into a committee that focuses on pushing Republican conspiracy theories and partisan talking points. We certainly don’t want it to turn into a place that perpetuates anti-Asian hate. We cannot and will not tolerate that.

But, instead, I would hope that this new committee would work in a similar fashion as the CECC—producing bipartisan work with a fact-based tone and approach that could be received by the international community seriously and substantively.

There are a few things that I think the select committee needs to keep in mind if they truly want to be effective.

First, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. Gallagher) said if he were to chair this committee, this focuses on pushing Republican conspiracy theories and partisan talking points. We certainly don’t want it to turn into a place that perpetuates anti-Asian hate. We cannot and will not tolerate that.

Second, this committee should not seek to focus solely on military solutions. Yes, China’s military modernisation is a legitimate issue, but that does not demand a military-first policy response.

Third, I am concerned that a committee focused myopically on the economic, technological, and security challenges of China could distract us from the need to build a holistic approach in many of these policy areas.

We need to remember that the United States faces economic, technological, and security challenges from many different regions across the globe, not just China. To focus solely on China, whether it be policy related to trade, technology, authoritarianism, or anything else, is neither analytically sound nor effective.

Fourth, and finally, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. Gallagher) said if he were to chair this committee, he would focus on “ideological competition and human rights.” I would just like to say that human rights are not ideological. Human rights are fundamental and universal, protected by a vast body of international law codified at the United Nations and widely adulated. They apply to every person in every country of the world.

It is the Chinese Communist Party, in fact, that portrays human rights along an ideological divide. That falsely portrays Chinese values as something distinct from Western values in an effort to justify its repression of the people of China. It is important that the committee does not adopt the rhetoric of Chinese officials.

While I do have concerns here, after reading the resolution itself, I will be voting yes. The Democratic Party has led the way in implementing efforts to monitor China’s compliance with international human rights and rule of law standards, and we will continue to do so here.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. McCarthy), the distinguished Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Mr. McCarthy. Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest worries about the future is that we fall behind Communist China.

The fact of the matter is the danger posed by our dependence on China is dire.

We spent decades passing policies that welcomed China into the global system. In return, China has exported oppression, aggression, and anti-Americanism. Today, the military and economy are growing at the expense of freedom and democracy worldwide.

It didn’t start under this administration, but the current administration has clearly made it worse. Their policies have weakened our economy and made us more vulnerable to the threats of the CCP.

But here is the good news: There is a bipartisan consensus that the era of trusting Communist China is over.

We listened to the gentleman across the aisle. I listened to your points, to your concerns. Do not be concerned. Those are my same concerns as well, and they will not take place.

I will tell the gentleman where the idea of all this was created. It was on a codel to Normandy. I was there with then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi celebrating the 75th anniversary of D-day. As you walked those hallowed grounds of the crosses and the Stars of David of these young American men, and you wondered: What could have been done for that day to have never taken place?

It dawned on me in that moment in time there was an opportunity instead of American Government not speaking with one voice—these different messages we have been providing—we should have a bipartisan committee that could look at all aspects, from economics when we fell into COVID and not knowing whether we could have our medical supplies because China controlled so much.

We learned of the farmland they are cause China controlled so much.

We weaken ourselves when we fight about which way to do it.

Wouldn’t it be better if we all came together?

For 9 months we worked on that, and we did get an agreement that we were going to start a bipartisan task force. We even had The Washington Post
come in and interview the Members who were going to be on it, but, unfortunately, the night before, the then-majority party pulled back.

Mr. Speaker, you have my word and my commitment that this is not a partisan committee. This will be a bipartisan committee. There is my desire, and my wish that we speak with one voice and that we focus on the challenges that we have of how do we bring our jobs back from China to America? How do we secure our intellectual property? How do we make sure our farmlands are protected?

All of that would be brought up within this committee. The threat is too great for us to be, as I have said, to be, with ourselves. The future should be determined by us. I have heard my colleagues on both sides say that the threat posed by Communist China is serious. I fully agree. This is an issue that transcends our political parties, and creating the select committee on China is our best avenue for addressing it.

If we want to end our dependence on China, then this committee will investigate. If we want to protect our national security, then this committee will work to do that. If we want to stop the theft of intellectual property and bring supply chains back to America, then this committee will work to make it happen. If we are worried about Chinese propaganda in our schools and lobbying efforts in Washington, then this committee will shine a bright light on it. If we are outraged that the CCP is buying American farmland, then this committee will work to stop it—but to stop it with one voice.

It is not one party saying it. It is America united determining our own future.

If we want to stop trillions of American dollars from financing Communist genocide and military modernization, then the committee will work to prevent it—including by investigating how ESG benefits the CCP.

The select committee on China will create the plan that will take us where we really need to go. It will get us all on the same page and move us in the right direction. Members of the select committee will work closely with their colleagues on every committee to get the job done.

Is it partisan?

Absolutely not.

To my friend across the aisle, if at any time on the five items you listed that you feel something is challenging, let's start with the right philosophy and with the right goals in mind, and let's work together to make it happen.

The chairman will be Mike Gallagher. This is a man who has sacrificed a lot. This is a man who is focused and studied. This is a man who is not going to pull back from the future to come. This is a man who will be here with the very best ideas. It doesn't matter where they come from. At the end of the day, we don't need a majority and minority report. We just need one philosophy with one principle, and America will be stronger for it.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his support. I appreciate it. Mr. McGovern. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Speaker for his assurances.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. Bera). Mr. Bera. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Massachusetts (Mr. McGovern) for yielding. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the select committee on China and to support this select committee on China.

These past two Congresses I have had the privilege of being the chairman on the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, and a senior member on the Foreign Affairs Committee. I have worked very closely with my ranking member, Steve Chabot—a good friend whom we are going to miss—but I also served as ranking member when Mr. Chabot was chairman on that committee.

We learned a lot on how we should approach China. We have looked at supply chains. We have traveled to the region. We have talked to our partners in southeast Asia and ASEAN. We have understood the vulnerabilities of our supply chains. The first hearing on the novel coronavirus back in February of 2020 when we didn't have a name on it. So we understand the importance, as a doctor, understanding the origins of COVID, where it came from, and how we can best prevent the next pandemic.

None of those questions are ones that we should be looking at and bickering about as Democratic or Republican questions. Those are questions that just make a lot of sense to our security, our economy, our economic strength, and where we go from here.

So I applaud the Speaker's comments on wanting this to be an American strategy, not a Democratic or Republican strategy.

If we look at our own history, what served us well in the Cold War is we had an American strategy. It didn't change every 2 years. It didn't change with the new Presidential administration. We acted. We came out there, we executed it, and we won the Cold War without going to war. That is what the challenge is that faces us today. I wish China had gone a different direction. I wish they had opened up.

I applaud the work that Mr. McGovern does on human rights and addressing the Uyghur genocide. Speaker Emerita Pelosi has been a champion on looking at the human rights abuses and the tragedy that is taking place in Tibet. Those are all issues that we should come together on, not just the United States of America, but with our allies and friends because they have the same concerns.

I don't want to say we are in a new cold war, but we are in a real challenge right now. So I support the select committee. Let's make it nonpartisan, and let's work together to create an American strategy.

Mr. Cole. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 31, establishing a bipartisan Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party.

In 1946, a great Wisconsinite, George Kennan, argued that dealing with the Soviet threat was the greatest task our diplomacy has ever faced and probably the greatest it will ever have to face.

Today, due to its aggression and its economic strength and our unique economic entanglement with it, the Chinese Communist Party represents an even greater test for American diplomacy.

As Secretary of State Antony Blinken put it last year: China is the only country with both the intent to reshape the international order and increasingly the economic, diplomatic, military, and technological power to do it.

The threat posed by the CCP is not abstract. The CCP's aggression is not limited to Taiwan, the South China Sea, Hong Kong, or even Xinjiang, where two captive administrations, Republican and Democratic alike, have determined that the CCP is engaging in genocide.

We see this aggression here at home where the party has stolen American intellectual property, technology, and our secrets. Wherever we fail to have our own capacity undermining our economy and good-paying American jobs.

It is here at home where the party's extraterritorial totalitarianism...
terrorizes Chinese students studying at our universities and targets Americans of Chinese descent. And it is here at home where thousands of Americans are poisoned each year by fentanyl precursors manufactured in China and distributed through complex Chinese money laundering networks in the United States. It is time to understand the urgency of the threat. It is time to reclaim our economic independence in key areas.

The select committee will expose the CCP’s whole-of-society strategy to undermine American leadership and American sovereignty while working on a bipartisan basis and with the committees of jurisdiction to identify long overdue, commonsense approaches to counter CCP aggression. I stress working on a bipartisan basis because that is the only way we are going to be successful over the long term. The CCP doesn’t pose a danger just to Republicans or Democrats. It is a threat to all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague for his work on the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act. That is one of the most consequential and significant pieces of legislation that we passed on a bipartisan basis in recent years to ensure that it is fully implemented, and there is much work to be done on that front.

We need to have a united front here in Congress to counter the Chinese Communist Party, and in so doing, at every step of the way, we must make sure that we are drawing a distinction between the party and the Chinese people with whom we have no quarrel and who are often the primary victims of CCP aggression and repression.

In sum, there is no more critical challenge facing our Nation today. I am grateful to Speaker McCarthy for his leadership and establishing this select committee, for giving me the mission, coordinating our efforts in this struggle, this bipartisan struggle. We heard his sincerity in wanting this to be an area where Republicans and Democrats can work together.

I would also like to thank Chairman Maxine McKelvey who chaired the China task force and did a phenomenal job. We are building upon the foundation that he laid with the China task force. I look forward to working with him as this effort moves forward.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues to support this critical legislation. I look forward to working with my Democratic colleagues. I see many friends sitting on the other side of the Chamber.

Mr. McGovern. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Foster).

Mr. Foster. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the creation of the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party. I rise as a research scientist who has participated in many international collaborations, which included some brilliant Chinese scientists; and I rise also as a businessman who founded a high-tech manufacturing business that now provides over 1,000 good-paying American manufacturing jobs and has kept those manufacturing jobs in America despite having to compete in the world markets for Chinese products for over two decades.

I have watched with consternation as our businesses’ electronic supply chain has been increasingly dependent upon China. Now, it was not a stupid thing for our country and the countries of the free world to attempt to help China become a free and open country by integrating it into the international economy and into the international scientific research community and to open our doors to Chinese students and scholars.

In the years since World War II, that approach has succeeded in turning many previously autocratic countries into free democracies around the globe. In recent years, China took a number of steps toward becoming a free and open country. But in recent years, it has turned back toward autocracy. So it is time to respond to that reality and to take thoughtful action.

On a personal note, my wife is Korean and is a scientist who has contributed at the highest levels of scientific research and science policy in the United States. The only reason that she is free today is that two generations ago, the U.S. and the free countries of the world stood up against Communism in Korea. But nothing is more self-defeating than the anti-Asian racism that sometimes creeps into the debate in our country.

The frontiers that we should be defending are not the good old U.S. of A. but the free democracies of the world. So, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this new Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, in particular in the clear distinction that it makes, even in its title, between the Communist Party of China and the people of China who are not the enemy.

Mr. Cole. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. Barr), my very good friend.

Mr. Barr. Mr. Speaker, the Chinese Communist Party is intent on replacing the United States as the world's preeminent economic, military, and technological power. They have a sophisticated plan to challenge American hegemony and to give every possible avenue to finance their goals. Defending against these advances is one of the most significant geopolitical challenges of a generation.

Today, the House, led by Speaker Kevin McCarthy, is voting to establish this committee to do just that. This select committee will examine the threats from the Chinese Communist Party with a fine-tooth comb and expose them for the American people and for the world to fully understand.

In addition, we will develop concrete solutions for how we can better position the United States to prevail in the competition of the 21st century led by the United States and defined by a rules-based international order.

The stakes are high, and the CCP’s list of offenses against the norms of international order is long: violating an international treaty and dismantling Hong Kong's civil liberties; egregious zero-tolerance COVID-19 restrictions in mainland China that led to protests with brutal crackdowns from CCP authorities; oppressing ethnic minorities; persecuting Uyghurs and Tibetans; conducting increasingly belligerent provocations on land and air and in cyberspace; using debt-trap diplomacy through the Belt and Road Initiative to assert colonial dominance over lesser developed countries; engaging in economic warfare through unfair trade practices; the theft of $600 billion of intellectual property from American businesses; the forced transfer of technology; and threatening through military, economic, and diplomatic coercion the democracy in Taiwan.

Last year and the year before, the threat from the CCP came into focus when the CCP silenced doctors and corrupted the World Health Organization to spread disinformation and cover up substandard biosecurity at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, leading to a deadly virus becoming a global pandemic, killing millions, devastating the global economy, and giving the CCP the opportunity to weaponize the global supply chain against the West.

Many Americans are now aware that Beijing’s malign activities are fueled, in part, by unwitting American investors. In 2020, $120 billion of U.S. foreign direct investment flowed into China from American businesses and investors.

Mr. Speaker, the United States is the economic envy of the world because we possess a capitalist free market economy, the deepest, most competitive liquid capital markets on planet Earth. This empowers individual investors and businesses to make decisions for themselves, but we cannot allow Wall Street banks, asset managers, and global equity index providers to fuel the rise of the CCP military and surveillance efforts hell-bent on targeting Americans. These companies pose an imminent and growing threat to American national security and the security of our allies.

That is why I will be reintroducing the Chinese Military and Surveillance Company Sanctions Act of 2021 in the 118th Congress, legislation that uses the economic power of the United States through OFAC to sanction Chinese companies that threaten U.S. national security.

I commend Speaker McCarthy for following through on his promise to
Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of the select committee on China.

As a 23-year veteran of the United States Navy and a former Navy SEAL commander, I am acquainted with China and its looming threat. Without question, China’s actions represent a threat not only to national security but also our environment.

As Secretary of the Interior, I led a delegation of Pacific Island officials and witnessed firsthand China’s intentions. I can tell you, their intentions are clear: control and dominance in the South China Sea and the hemisphere.

It should be noted that China has the largest standing Navy, greater than the United States. They have stolen U.S. technology and have increased their capacity for nuclear weapons. China continues to threaten democracies, such as Taiwan, the Philippines, and even our territories.

On the environmental front, the People’s Republic of China is the world’s largest emitter of greenhouse gases; the largest source of marine debris; the world’s largest consumer of trafficked wildlife and timber products. In fact, 90 percent of the world’s plastics found in oceans comes from four rivers in China.

China’s actions today represent a clear and present danger, and they use any means available to them—blackmail, data hacking, and espionage.

It is time to act in a bipartisan way, and I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this critical bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, there is broad recognition among Democrats and Republicans that Congress must adopt a whole-of-government approach in response to China’s malign, unreported, and unregulated fishing; and is the world’s largest consumer of trafficked wildlife and timber products. In fact, 90 percent of the world’s plastics found in oceans comes from four rivers in China.

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It is time to act in a bipartisan way, and I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this critical bill.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, there is broad recognition among Democrats and Republicans that Congress must adopt a whole-of-government approach in response to China’s malign, unreported, and unregulated fishing; and is the world’s largest consumer of trafficked wildlife and timber products. In fact, 90 percent of the world’s plastics found in oceans comes from four rivers in China.

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It is time to act in a bipartisan way, and I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this critical bill.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the growing threat posed to the American people by the influence of the Chinese Communist Party.

Let us be clear, the greatest influence, the greatest challenge that we face from an outside source today is from the Chinese Communist Party. From intellectual property theft to deceptive trade practices, and the acquisition of farmland, and the theft of the rare earth minerals industry, the Chinese Communist Party continues to pose challenges to America as we speak.

Americans are waking up to the threat. From combating global public health threats to defending our networks and equipping Americans to lead in global innovation, we must act now to confront the growing threat of the CCP.

Having served on the China Task Force, I was proud to work with my colleagues to address these challenges. Together, we delivered over 400 commonsense and workable solutions to
help address the challenges that we certainly recognize we face today.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, we worked to shed light on the vulnerabilities of our medical supply chain. We worked to strengthen our national security, protect our global values, and secure our place in international leadership for years to come.

Now, it is time to continue that mission by creating the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the CCP. This select committee will finally give the threats posed by the CCP their due congressional attention and ensure that American innovation and American ingenuity continue to outpace the threats to global security and global stability that is perpetrated by the Chinese Communist Party.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this resolution.

Mr. McGovern. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Ms. Chu).

Ms. Chu. Mr. Speaker, as chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, or CAPAC, I rise to address the creation of the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party.

CAPAC strongly supports strengthening our economy and national security, and we have always recognized that there are legitimate concerns with the actions of the Government of the People’s Republic of China. This committee could address these issues productively.

However, I rise to remind all Members that this committee should not be used as an open invitation to traffic in blatant xenophobic, anti-China rhetoric that we know results in physical violence against Asian Americans.

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We certainly saw this with Trump’s labeling of COVID as the “China virus” resulting in the crimes against AAPIs in this country.

This committee cannot be used to promote policies that result in the racial profiling of Asian Americans but should directly focus on specific concerns related to the Government of the People’s Republic of China.

We know the danger for Asian-American communities if the committee devolves into xenophobic rhetoric and scapegoating.

Back in the 1980s, when the economic competition between the U.S. and Japan reached a boiling point, Vincent Chin was out at a bar in Detroit celebrating his upcoming wedding when two laid-off autoworkers shouted: It is because of you that we lost our jobs. These men harassed Vincent, chased him, and bashed him in his head with a baseball bat, beating him until he died. Neither of them served a day in jail and only paid a $3,000 fine. Instead of attending his wedding, Vincent’s family attended his funeral.

This is part of our country’s history, and what this shows is what we say and how we say it matters. We know how dangerous the consequences can be if we don’t get this right.

Mr. Cole. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LaHood), my good friend.

Mr. LaHood. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 11, Establishing the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party.

As a member of the China Task Force in the 116th and 117th Congresses and a member of the House Intelligence Committee, this committee is long overdue, and I commend Speaker McCarthy for putting this together. A clear and dedicated focus on issues surrounding the strategic competition between the United States and China has never been more important.

I would make three observations.

One, make no mistake about it, Mr. Speaker. China has a plan to replace us, and they are working on it every single day in technology, national security, and in economics. The longer we go without addressing those issues, the further we fall behind.

Number two is that allies that Xi Jinping and the CCP align themselves with, Putin in Russia, who is a war criminal, and Iran. You talk about the unbreakable bond they have with Russia as it relates to the Ukraine conflict; they would want nothing more than to see the West lose in this conflict.

Number three, I hope this select committee looks at how we can use our economic power in the United States in the trade space working with our like-minded allies in the Indo-Pacific region: Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, and Indonesia. We have been asleep at the wheel when it comes to the economic power we should be using.

Finally, China continues to exploit democratic norms and standards throughout the region, engages in economic manipulation of the global marketplace, and threatens global peace and security efforts. This select committee is more important than ever to ensure the United States does not continue to delay our focus on the true needs of our strategic competition with China.

I strongly support this select committee, and I urge adoption of the resolution.

Mr. McGovern. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. Khanna).

Mr. Khanna. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this select committee.

As an Asian American who represents the only Asian majority district in the continental United States, I would never support a committee that I thought would engage in xenophobia or attacks on the Chinese people.

I am pleased that this committee is not directed against China but is directed against the Chinese Communist Party in the crafting of the language.

I am pleased that it is going to focus on things that have been a bipartisan concern: human rights violations that Representative McGovern has advocated in standing up for the Uyghurs.

The fact is, this country has lost our industrial base. For 40 years, on a bipartisan basis, we have watched as jobs were shipped offshore, factories shut down, and our trade deficit from $70 billion to almost $400 billion. That has hurt the working class. It has hurt our ability to be a superpower, and it has led to rising tensions with China.

If we want to deal with Asian hate in this country, one of the things we need to do is rebalance our production. It is the loss of our jobs that has fueled some of the xenophobia. It is the loss of those jobs that fueled the killing that Representative Chu talked about in Michigan with Vincent Chin.

I believe this committee cannot only stand up for American interests. I believe when done well, it can help get us to peace and reduce the tensions with China by rebalancing trade, by ensuring that China respects Taiwan, and by standing up for human rights.

I am pleased on a personal basis that Representative Gallagher will be chair of this committee. We have had heated debates in the Armed Services Committee. We don’t agree on many things, but I know that he is a marine, a patriot, and someone who is going to make sure that the committee is focused on the issues.

Mr. Cole. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. Hill), my very good friend.

Mr. Hill. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I rise in support of the creation of this bipartisan Select Committee on Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party.

Like my friend from California said, the title is fundamental here. This is a policy dispute between our government and the Chinese Communist Party, not China, not the Chinese people.

Most Americans have a great affinity for the Chinese people, their industriousness and technical talent both in China and as citizens abroad.

The United States has a long history of partnership with China: in the 19th century as a partner in trade; during World War II as an ally; and our support for their growth over the past five decades.

Today, as a great power and as an ancient civilization, China has been perverted by the modern leadership of leader for life Xi and the CCP, the country is festering, a policy dispute between our government and the Chinese Communist Party, not China, not the Chinese people.

Like my friend from California said, the title is fundamental here. This is a policy dispute between our government and the Chinese Communist Party, not China, not the Chinese people.
During the pandemic, we have witnessed the severe vulnerability of the world’s global supply chain as being far too reliant on China for minerals, for pharmaceuticals, for medical supplies, for almost everything.

This committee will work to address the possible strategies to meet and counter Xi’s posture. I urge all my colleagues to support its creation. I wish Chairman GALLAGHER well in his mission.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding the time.

I rise in strong opposition to H. Res. 11, which would create a select committee on China. The only reason why we are creating this select committee on China is because extremist MAGA Republicans in last week’s circular firing squad election for Speaker, the Speaker had to promise to allow creation of this committee.

We have watched China rise. We know their activities. We know what kind of competition they pose to our economy, national security, intellectual property, human rights, all of these issues. We know where we stand with China, and each of those issues are covered by committees of jurisdiction that exist right now. Any investigation that is done can be done through the existing committees.

So why are we creating this committee? I fear that it is to create a platform to unleash anti-Asian hate and division. This committee should not be used as an open invitation to engage and traffic in blatantly xenophobic anti-Asian rhetoric that we know historically results in violence against the Asian people in this country.

That is the reason why I oppose the creation of this select committee.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. SPARTZ), my very good friend.

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the select committee on China.

In February of last year, President Xi of China and President Putin of Russia issued a joint statement redefining democracy proclaiming: “A trend has emerged towards redistribution of power in the world.”

We must take this statement seriously.

Also, in February of last year, the White House released its annual report on domestic supply chains, highlighting the heavy reliance of many U.S. industries on China.

For example, China provides more than 90 percent of certain pesticides, and three Chinese companies account for 90 percent of the world’s dry cargo. The recent COVID-19 pandemic underscored our dependencies on vital medications, like 90 percent of U.S. antibiotic imports are from China.

Such heavy dependencies on any country would be a major risk but being dependent on a communist country with expansionist policies is a significant national security risk.

We must address it.

Mr. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that this Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and China will be a sober and comprehensive engagement of the very important challenge China poses to American security and prosperity and that of our allies, and not a cynical descent into the worst impulses of Republican oversight efforts.

This select committee offers an opportunity for this body to assess and act on how the United States can compete with the CCP on advanced manufacturing, trade, and emerging technologies; lead the world in competition between democracy versus autocracy; and bring to light the autocratic practices and human rights violations in Hong Kong, the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, and Tibet.

As president of NATO’s legislative arm, I was proud to partner with my colleagues in this body on both sides of the aisle and on both sides of the Atlantic to put China on the NATO agenda for the very first time in its 70-year history.

I am hopeful this select committee can also follow the lead of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, which I co-chair and have co-chaired for 10 years, to use this committee as a venue to express bipartisan support for Taiwan’s democracy, independence, and territorial sovereignty instead of driving wedges that can only advance the interests of those we seek to expose.

Using this committee to drive partisan wedges would be a missed opportunity, and I am hopeful we will not do that.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to tackle the geopolitical question of our generation and to make this a bipartisan inquiry and effort.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLS), my very good friend who also has rendered distinguished service to our country in uniform.

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to talk about the economic resource warfare that the CCP has launched against the United States.

As a former business owner, I can tell you the CCP continues to steal hundreds of billions of dollars in intellectual property from American companies with no consequence.

Under the current weak administration that has lost credibility on the world stage after the failed Afghan withdrawal, they have shown no course of action to combat these issues, but there is a plan now.

Thanks to the American people who elected a Republican majority, I am happy to support establishing this select committee to hold the CCP accountable.

I am committed to putting us back ahead of the malign Chinese aggressions. While this resolution is just a start, we need to also look at mitigating Chairman Xi’s One Belt, One Road initiative and increase domestic production to offset our GDP-to-national-debt ratio while unleashing American energy production and strengthening the U.S. dollar.

This bill is a commonsense approach that will put America first and stop adversarial reliance on nations that intend to eliminate the U.S. dollar from being the global currency, cut off Western Hemisphere supply chains, and advance China’s goal of hegemony.

Let’s get this done and put America first.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), my very good friend and a distinguished Member.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, for over three decades post-Tiananmen Square massacre, Congress has supported Taiwan. It was deeply divided; not between Republican and Democrat, but among the majority here and in the Senate who favored unfettered engagement and
trade without serious human rights conditionality.

Indeed, President Clinton delinked human rights in trade on May 26, 1994. I went up there and gave a press conference, I was joined by a few others saying how serious that was to give up on hands off and allow profits to trump human rights.

We have seen the brutal nature of the Communist regime, especially under Xi Jinping, and the Chinese Communist Party’s ultimate desire to seek hegemony.

Over the years, I have chaired 76 congressional hearings on China and authored several pieces of legislation, including the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, and was the Republican sponsor of Jim McGovern’s Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act. We now have to make sure those laws are being faithfully implemented.

Mr. Speaker, 20 years ago when China became a member of the WTO, most Members of Congress, somehow, they will matriculate into a democracy.

That fantasy has been shown to be demonstrably naïve, at best. The CCP has become more powerful because of the trade and dual use items that have accrued over there that are now being used by their military and by their police.

I would note, parenthetically, I chaired two hearings on why China should not be invited into the WTO and no one—no one—listened.

The record is clear, Mr. Speaker. As predicted, we have become more like them. Thankfully, that is changing, but many in our corporate establishment, somehow, they will matriculate into a democracy.

The potential that this select committee has really is contingent on making sure that the words that were expressed by Speaker McCarthy and by incoming Chair Gallager are actually upheld. The concern that you hear on our side really is concern that this devolves into something that is about promoting conspiracy theories and that tolerates racist language.

We should have been through all of this. The use of the words that the former President chose to employ resulted in hate crimes against Asian Americans in this country. It is unconscionable.

If this fantasy goes in that direction, I assure you that the Democrats on that committee will push back forcefully.

We want this committee to be effective. In theory, this is a committee that will get ahead, and I hope that it is successful. I hope that it is bipartisan. I hope that it is all that we have promised here today.

As I said, I am going to vote for this because I think it is the right thing to do, and I have faith that our Members on both sides will do the right thing.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote their conscience. I am going to vote ‘yes’ on this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I begin by thanking my friend for the debate and for his tremendous work in holding China accountable in the human rights area.

I am certainly confident the Speaker will do as he said, and we will have a committee both sides can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution creating a Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party.

It is beyond dispute that Communist China poses an urgent generational threat to the United States’ interests and values. America has become far too economically dependent on China in recent decades, and as a result, our supply chains have become dangerously fragile. We must urgently take steps to secure our supply chains and bring those home.

The Chinese Communist Party continues to push the envelope, both in the United States and abroad. They steal American intellectual property. They build spy networks and propaganda machines on American soil. They threaten our allies in Asia and the South China Sea. They have spread their influence throughout the developing world, seeking to ensnare vulnerable developing countries in debt-trap diplomacy.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come for the House of Representatives to take a comprehensive look at Communist China. We must build on the excellent work done by the China Task Force in 2018 and 2020. We must investigate China’s actions and respond appropriately to ensure America confronts this very grave threat.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote ‘yes’ on this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, pursuant to House Resolution 5, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McGovern. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, pursuant to rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Cole. Mr. Speaker, as the designee of the majority leader, pursuant to House Resolution 5, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 12) establishing a Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government as a select investigative subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 5, the resolution is considered read.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

Resolved.

SECTION 1. SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

(a) Establishment; Composition.—

(1) Establishment. — There is hereby established for the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress a select investigative subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary called the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government (hereinafter referred to as the "select subcommittee").

(2) Composition.—

(A) The select subcommittee shall be composed of the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary, together with not more than 13 other Members, Delegates, or the Resident Commissioner appointed by the Speaker, of whom not more than 5 shall be appointed in consultation with the minority leader. The Speaker shall designate one member of the
The select subcommittee as its chair. Any vacancy in the select subcommittee shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

The subcommittee shall be treated as though a member of the Committee on the Judiciary for purposes of the select subcommittee.

Investigative Functions and Authority.—

(1) Investigative Functions.—The select subcommittee shall have the authority to conduct a full and complete investigation and study and, not later than January 2, 2025, issue a final report to the House of its findings and recommendations (as it may deem necessary)—

(A) The executive role of article II authority vested in the executive branch to collect information on the United States or to otherwise investigate citizens of the United States, including ongoing criminal investigations;

(B) how executive branch agencies work with, obtain information from, and provide information to the private sector, non-profit entities, or other government agencies to facilitate action against American citizens, including the extent, if any, to which illegal or unethical activities committed against citizens of the United States;

(C) how executive branch agencies collect, compile, analyze, use, or disseminate information on or otherwise investigate citizens of the United States, including any unconstitutional, illegal, or unethical activities committed against citizens of the United States;

(D) the laws, programs, and activities of the executive branch as they relate to the collection of information on citizens of the United States and the sources and methods used for the collection of information on citizens of the United States;

(E) any other issues related to the violation of the civil liberties of citizens of the United States;

(F) any other matter relating to information collected pursuant to the investigation conducted under this paragraph at any time during the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress.

(2) Authority.—

(A) The select subcommittee may report to the House or any committee of the House from time to time the results of its investigations and studies, together with such detailed findings and legislative recommendations as it may deem advisable.

(B) Any markup of legislation shall be held at the full Committee level consistent with clause 1(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(c) Procedure.—

(I) Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and the rules of the Committee on the Judiciary shall apply to the select subcommittee in the same manner as a subcommittee except as follows:

(A) the select subcommittee may, after consultation with the ranking minority member, recognize—

(i) members of the select subcommittee to question a witness for periods longer than five minutes as though pursuant to clause 2(2)(B) of such rule XI; and

(ii) staff of the select subcommittee to question a witness for periods longer than five minutes as though pursuant to clause 2(2)(C) of such rule XI.

(B) The Committee on the Judiciary (or the chair of the Committee on the Judiciary, if appointed) and any subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary, if authorized by the Rules of the House of Representatives and the rules of the Committee on the Judiciary, may authorize and issue subpoenas to be returned at the select subcommittee.

(C) With regard to the full scope of investigative authority under subsection (b)(1), the select subcommittee shall be authorized to receive information available to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, consistent with congressional reporting requirements for intelligence and intelligence-related activities, and any such information received shall be subject to the terms and conditions applicable under clause 11 of rule X.

(2) The provisions of this resolution shall govern the proceedings of the select subcommittee in the event of any conflict with the rules of the House or of the Committee on the Judiciary.

(d) Service.—Service on the select subcommittee shall not count against the limitations in clause 5(b)(2)(A) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(e) Successor.—The Committee on the Judiciary is the “successor in interest” to the select subcommittee for purposes of clause 8(c) of rule II of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(f) Sunset.—The select subcommittee shall cease to exist 30 days after filing the final report required under subsection (b).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the majority leader and the minority leader or their respective designees.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 12.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 12, a resolution establishing the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government.

The Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government is modeled on the famous Church Committee, which investigated the American intelligence community in the 1970s and uncovered and exposed a wide variety of abuses, including many directed against American citizens.

Similar to the situation that confronted America in the 1970s, in recent years the executive branch of the Federal Government has abused its authority and violated the civil liberties of American citizens committed by the executive branch.

The select subcommittee will operate as a select investigative subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee and will be tasked with all matters regarding the executive branch’s authority to collect information on or otherwise investigate citizens of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, it is undeniable that, in recent years, the executive branch of the Federal Government has abused its authority and violated the civil liberties of American citizens, often for political purposes. There are many examples to point to, ranging from a father being labeled a “domestic terrorist” for confronting a school board over the sexual assault of his daughter, to the Federal Government’s role in suppressing information on Twitter, to the Department of Homeland Security’s plans to create a Disinformation Governance Board, and to the revelations regarding the FBI’s abuse of its Foreign Intelligence and Surveillance Act authority.

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Mr. Speaker, it is undeniable that, in recent years, the executive branch of the Federal Government has abused its authority and violated the civil liberties of American citizens, often for political purposes. There are many examples to point to, ranging from a father being labeled a “domestic terrorist” for confronting a school board over the sexual assault of his daughter, to the Federal Government’s role in suppressing information on Twitter, to the Department of Homeland Security’s plans to create a Disinformation Governance Board, and to the revelations regarding the FBI’s abuse of its Foreign Intelligence and Surveillance Act authority.

All these examples and many more demonstrate how prevalent such abusive actions have become.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve to have confidence in their government. They deserve to know that the broad powers granted through the Federal Government to the FBI, to the Department of Homeland Security, and to the intelligence agencies are not being abused. They deserve to know that the executive branch is not positioning itself as the final arbiter of what constitutes truth. They deserve to know that they will not be labeled a domestic terrorist for advocating for their children in front of a school board.

Mr. Speaker, it was Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis who stated that “sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants.” At the end of the day, that is the purpose of the select subcommittee. It will bring abuses by the Federal Government to light for the American people and ensure that Congress, as their elected representatives, can take appropriate action to remedy them.

I have confidence that this select subcommittee will accomplish that goal.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, today, we will consider the creation of a new subcommittee here in the House that Republicans call the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government. I call it the McCarthy committee, and I am not talking about Kevin. I am talking about Joe.

Mr. Speaker, this committee is nothing more than a deranged ploy by the MAGA extremists who have hijacked the Republican Party and now want to use taxpayer money to push their far-right conspiracy nonsense.

Let’s start with the subcommittee’s mandate, which is recklessly broad.
Speaker MCCARTHY is essentially handing Mr. JORDAN the power to target anyone and anything he doesn’t like, anything and anyone he deems unconstitutional, illegal, or unethical.

Who decides what is unconstitutional, illegal, or unethical? Mr. JORDAN does.

Why don’t we just be blunt here? Republicans claim to care about law enforcement, but this new committee is about attacking law enforcement. It is about going after people. It is about destroying people’s careers and lives. It is about undermining the Department of Justice, defending the police, and tilting scores on behalf of the twice-impeached and disgraced former occupant of the Oval Office.

The MAGA extremist fringe of the Republican Party will use this committee to push QAnon conspiracy theories and lies from Truth Social. They are going to use it to gin up fake investigations into nonexistent scandals. I think we need to just start calling this the tinfoil hat committee.

Speaker McCarthy even changed the language at the last minute to provide unprecedented authority for the subcommittee to interfere in ongoing criminal investigations.

Let me repeat: The Republican Party, the party that claims to care about law and order, has created a committee not just to defend the police based on their wacky conspiracy theories, but to actually try to shut down ongoing investigations, including into domestic terrorists, phony electors, insurrectionists, people who are on trial for sedition because they tried to overthrow the government, and even disgraced former President Donald Trump.

This is outrageous. We are a country of laws, but this committee seeks to undermine the rule of law, the police, and make a complete mockery of the investigative and oversight powers of the House.

As seen on this week’s Sunday shows, some sitting Republicans being investigated right now by the FBI and the Department of Justice want to serve on this committee.

I mean, what? I mean, come on. Give me a break. I know my Republican friends have some ethically challenged members of Congress in their ranks, but this is beyond the pale. This is unconscionable. This is a conflict of interest.

First, they gut the Office of Congressional Ethics. Now, they give Members of Congress the authority to investigate and to try to shut down criminal investigations that are subjects in. One set of rules for the American people, another set of rules for Republican Members of Congress. It is incredibly offensive.

On their first real week in the majority, this is what my Republican friends are pushing through? Not a bill to fight inflation. Not a bill to raise wages for people. A bill for Republican Members of Congress to shut down investigations into their own wrongdoing. What is wrong with these people?

On top of all of that, this subcommittee expects to use the power of its delusional QAnon conspiracy theories and harass Federal law enforcement agents. I would say it is almost comical if it wasn’t so disturbing that Speaker McCarthy and Mr. JORDAN refused to comply with bipartisan subpoenas issued by the January 6th Committee. So I guess for them, it is do as I say, not as I do.

In my mind, it speaks volumes that House Republicans are choosing to prioritize this kind of dangerous partisan garbage instead of actually trying to help everyday Americans. Whatever happened to Republicans’ commitment to America? They promised to tackle inflation, end the opioid crisis, reduce the national debt, and more. None of those issues are addressed in their first 12 bills.

In fact, the very first bill they passed last night was about Trump. It adds $114 billion to the deficit by making it easier for billionaires to cheat on their taxes.

This is where we are week 2 of the 118th Congress, and we are creating a witch-hunt committee where Republicans plan to air their grievances and further incite crazy fringe conspiracy theories from the internet at the taxpayers’ expense.

Senator Joseph McCarthy would be very proud of what Republicans are doing today. Putting their own personal and partisan politics over the needs of the American people. Just like Senator McCarthy looking for imaginary communists, they are going to find fake conspiracies everywhere they look because that is what they want to find.

Just like the McCarthy committee, this will become another shameful, disgraceful moment for the Congress of the United States.

This has nothing to do with the rule of law, nothing to do with proper oversight of government. It is simply about revenge. It is about disrupting and destroying rather than collaborating and treating. It is about putting politics over people instead of putting people over politics to build a better future for America.

This subcommittee is an awful idea, and I urge my colleagues, in the strongest possible terms, to vote “no” on this monstrosity that will further empower the extremists at the expense of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN), who is my very good friend and the distinguished incoming chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

A ploy? It is not a ploy when the Department of Justice treats parents as terrorists; moms and dads who are simply showing up at a school board meeting to advocate for their son or daughter. It is not a ploy when the FBI pays Twitter $3 million, not 1, not 2, $3 million to censor American citizens.

It is not a ploy when the Department of Homeland Security tries to set up a disinformation governance board because we all know that the Department of Homeland Security can tell what is good speech and what is bad speech. You have got to be kidding me.

I will tell you what, dozens of whistleblowers who have come and talked to Republican staff on the Judiciary Committee don’t think this is a ploy. That is why they came to talk to us. They know how serious this is.

The former Democrat chair of the Judiciary Committee is in the press today saying we are going to fight this tooth and nail. This is political. Meanwhile, the members of their Judiciary Committee pressured Twitter to censor a journalist. You have got to be kidding me.

This is about the First Amendment, saying you can’t say things you used to say. I had actually hoped we could get bipartisan agreement on protecting the First Amendment, the five rights we enjoy as Americans under the First Amendment. Your right to practice your faith, your right to peaceful assembly, your right to petition the government, freedom of press, freedom of speech. Every single one has been attacked in the last 2 years.

The Government was telling people they couldn’t go to church just a few years ago; your right to assemble. Your right to petition the Government. The Democrats kept the Capitol closed. You couldn’t, as a citizen, come to your Capitol that you pay for to address your governmental representatives. They know how serious this is.

The Government was telling people they couldn’t go to church just a few years ago; your right to assemble. Your right to petition the government, freedom of press, freedom of speech. Every single one has been attacked in the last 2 years.

Freedom of the press. I just told you what the head of the Intel Committee did to do to a journalist. The most important right we have, though, is your right to talk. Because if you can’t talk, you can’t practice your faith, you can’t share your faith, you can’t petition your government. The right to speak is the most important, and that is what they are going after. That is why we have had dozens of whistleblowers come talk to us. We want to focus on that because we want it all to stop. We want the double standard to stop. This idea that if you are a pro-life activist, you are going to get your door kicked in and you are going to get arrested and handcuffed in front of your seven kids and your spouse for simply praying in front of abortion clinics. It is not a ploy when the Department of Justice treats parents as terrorists; moms and dads who are simply showing up at a school board meeting to advocate for their son or daughter. It is not a ploy when the FBI pays Twitter $3 million, not 1, not 2, $3 million to censor American citizens.

It is not a ploy when the Department of Homeland Security tries to set up a disinformation governance board because we all know that the Department of Homeland Security can tell what is good speech and what is bad speech. You have got to be kidding me.

We don’t want to go after anyone. We just want it to stop. We want to respect
And she said Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), a fierce defender of Trump, “talked about congressional pardons, but he never asked me for one,” noting that he was largely inquiring about whether or not the White House was going to grant the lawmaker pardons.

Brooks, Biggs, Perry and Jordan were all issued subpoenas by the select committee in May.

Perry previously denied that he asked for a pardon, and stood by that in light of new testimony.

“I stand by my statement that I never sought a Presidential pardon for myself or other Members of Congress. At no time did I speak with any White House employee, the White House scheduler, nor any White House staff about a pardon for myself or any other Member of Congress—this never happened,” Perry said in a statement.

A spokesman for Perry previously denied that he asked for a pardon, calling it “laughable, ludicrous, and a thoroughly soulless lie.”

In a statement Thursday night, Gohmert said he requested pardons for U.S. service members and military contractors—not himself.

He called the claim that he requested a pardon for himself, “deceptively edited,” and said he is “laughable, and if anyone ever believed the witch hunt nonsense, they need to take a look at the video.”

Gohmert also noted that he did not contact the White House Counsel’s office seeking a pardon.

Green, a spokeswoman for Brooks forwarded a full copy of the email, which included a concern that Democrats would “abuse America’s judicial system by targeting numerous Republican lawmakers for their role in voting to overturn election results in certain states on Jan. 6, 2021, according to testimony from former Trump aides.

Testimony from Trump aides named Reps. Matt Gaetz (Fla.), Mo Brooks (Ala.), Louie Gohmert (Texas), Andy Biggs (Ariz.), and Scott Perry (Pa.) as being involved in efforts to solicit pardons.

An aide also said that Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (Ga.) contacted the White House Counsel’s office seeking a pardon.

Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), a member of the panel who played an elevated role in Thursday’s proceedings, presented an email from Brooks, dated Jan. 11, 2021, in which the congressman asked for presidential pardons for himself, Gaetz, and lawmakers who objected to the Electoral College vote for Arizona and Pennsylvania.

“President Trump asked me to send you this letter. This letter is also pursuant to a request from Matt Gaetz,” the email reads. “As such, I recommend that President give general (all purpose) pardons to the following groups of people:”

The email adds, “Even though I am a member of the Constitution or statutory duties under 3 USC 15,” Brooks wrote in a statement. “Fortunately, with time passage, more rational forces took over and I decided not to persecute or perform their lawful duties, which means a pardon was unnecessary after all.”

The panel also showed a video of former special assistant to the president Cassidy Hutchinson, saying Gaetz and Brooks both advocated for there to be a blanket pardon for members of Congress involved with a meeting that took place on Dec. 21, 2020, presumably the huddle at the White House that focused on overturning the 2020 presidential election.

She also said Gaetz and Brooks advocated for a blanket pardon for “a handful of other members that weren’t at the Dec. 21 meeting.” Those Congress members were “preemptive pardons,” she noted.

Additionally, Hutchinson said “Gaetz was personally pushing for a pardon, and he was doing so since early December,” but said she did not know why.

Gaetz reached out to Hutchinson asking for a blanket pardon for himself and Meadows “about receiving a presidential pardon,” according to her closed-door testimony presented at Thursday’s hearing.

Hutchinson said Biggs, Gohmert and Perry also asked for pardons, but did not reveal more details.

Mr. NADLER, Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this resolution, which appears designed to launch a dangerous and unprecedented attack on our law enforcement agencies.

Last week, Americans across the country watched the Republican Party melt down the moment it encountered its first test. For days, the extremist wing of the party held the rest of their caucus hostage as they demanded a steep price for their support. Today, we see the first of those demands on display, an open-ended investigation into whatever conspiracy theories may be headlining the rightwing echo chamber at the moment, with unchecked authority to undermine ongoing criminal and intelligence investigations.

For example, the select committee can use its expansive authorities to protect Donald Trump, those who perpetrated false elector schemes to overturn the 2020 Presidential election, those who facilitated their crimes, and other domestic terrorists.

It aims to undermine the safeguards of our democracy and to embolden MAGA extremists who would rather see our institutions fail than see Democrats and President Biden succeed.

Make no mistake, the destroy democracy subcommittee will enable the House Republicans to interfere with the free operation of businesses they do not like, to inhibit the fight against domestic terrorism, and to settle political scores on behalf of Donald Trump.

The Judiciary Committee has serious work to do. But trying to solve the problems of the American people, this new subcommittee will expend untold time and money undermining our Nation’s law enforcement agencies, our justice system and our intelligence community, all for a political stunt catering to the extremist wing of the Republican Party.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose this resolution, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. COLE, Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER), my very good friend, the incoming chairman of the Oversight Committee.

Mr. COMER, Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the creation of the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government.

The Federal Government exists to serve the American people, administer the law impartially, and protect our cherished freedoms enshrined in the Constitution.

However, some unelected, unaccountable Federal bureaucrats have abused the positions of power that sit just on the other side of the aisle that likes to talk about “threats to democracy,” but they refuse to do any congressional oversight as the Federal Government weaponized its authority, influence, and power to target American groups and citizens based on their political and ideological views.

Just yesterday, we learned that classified documents from Joe Biden’s time...
as Vice President were stashed in an unsecured closet. The National Archives knew about these documents several months ago, before the election, but the American people were just informed yesterday, thanks to some investigative reporting.

Meanwhile, the FBI conducted a raid on former President Trump’s Mar-a-Lago residence for the same violation. Why has President Biden, who has repeatedly kept classified materials in an unsecured location for years, never faced a raid? Is it because we have a two-tier system of justice?

The left also continues to push for an expanded IRS, even though the agency has a history of targeting conservative political groups. They have pushed for more audits of middle-class Americans instead of better customer service. In another example, at President Biden’s direction, the Department of Homeland Security formed a dystopian disinformation task force with policing American speech online.

While this board has been disbanded, we continue to learn more almost every day about how the Biden administration pressures big tech to censor and undermine Americans’ views online that are contrary to their political narrative.

The Biden administration’s Justice Department also actively targeted parents concerned about woke curricula in their children’s schools and labeled many as domestic terrorists. The American people have made it clear that they want accountability for these abuses.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, we cannot delay our accountability any longer. We need to get to work now. We must expose the abuses committed by the unelected, unaccountable Federal bureaucracy and enact solutions to prevent similar abuses from happening in the future.

I look forward, as chairman of the House Oversight Committee, to work closely with this new select committee.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a CNN article titled: “There are clear distinctions between Trump and Biden’s two cases.”

[From CNN Politics, Jan. 10, 2023]

OFF THE RECORD

There are Clear Distinctions Between Trump and Biden’s Two Cases

(By Stephen Collinson)

Republicans seized on revelations that several classified documents from Joe Biden’s time as vice president were found in his former private office. This has now raised the specter of former President Donald Trump’s hoarding of secret records.

The disclosures Monday about the material found in his safe were spun up an immediate political storm at a time when Trump is in increasing legal peril. The new GOP House majority is meanwhile rushing to undermine investigations into him and unleashing a wave of counter investigations against the current president.

But there are clear distinctions between the two cases.

The new controversy so far appears to be on a smaller scale than the more than 100 documents declassified as the highest designations of government secrecy—taken from Trump’s resort at Mar-a-Lago after a court-approved search by FBI agents co-operating with the National Archives and the Justice Department in a way that Trump failed to do and unlike the former president he is not being investigated for possible obstruction of justice.

But Trump, who brands attempts to make him face accountability for his conduct in office and his actions as a cover-up, sought to capitalize on Biden’s discomfort over the documents in a post on his Truth Social network.

“Is the FBI going to raid the many homes of Joe Biden, perhaps even the White House? These documents were definitely not declassified,” he wrote.

New House Oversight Chairman James Comer told CNN: “This is (a) further concern that there is a two-tiered justice system.”

New House Oversight Chairman James Comer also moved quickly to respond to the discovery of the documents in an office used by Biden after he left the vice presidency.

“Oh, really? They just now found them after all these years,” he told CNN. “What has he said about the other president having classified documents?”

Attorney General Merrick Garland has asked the US attorney in Chicago to review the material, some of which bore the markings “sensitive compartmentalized information”—showing that it came from intelligence sources.

Questions Biden Must Face

Fairness and respect for the law dictate that Biden should answer many of the same questions that Trump is facing, regarding whether he was entitled to the records, why they were not previously turned over, whether they were securely stored and how they ended up in his office in the first place.

Critics will also wonder why Biden didn’t immediately disclose the discovery of less than a dozen documents last fall to the public, given the high level of interest of Justice Department probe of Trump on a similar question. And the president will be sure to face accusations of hypocrisy given his sharp criticisms that Trump did not take the proper steps to secure classified documents at Mar-a-Lago.

Still, even if there are adequate answers to these issues, the severity of the Biden and Trump documents will be obliterated in the political torrent that is already swirling and with conservative media likely to draw false equivalences between the two cases.

The report offers an immediate opening for Trump as he seeks to dodge culpability for his behavior as a victim of persecution to thwart his 2024 campaign. The former president is a master at turning one issue into an entire campaign narrative—likely to draw false equivalences between the two cases.

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The report offers an immediate opening for Trump as he seeks to dodge culpability for his behavior as a victim of persecution to thwart his 2024 campaign. The former president is a master at turning one issue into an entire campaign narrative—likely to draw false equivalences between the two cases.
ex-president. But the intensity, scope and financial muscle of the investigations was bolstered by the concessions offered by McCarthy as he caved to right-wing hardliners in order to secure his leadership last week, and it represents a fast-expanding challenge for the White House, which has already spent months preparing its defense.

A new package passed on Monday for instance will set up probes into alleged political bias in agencies like the FBI and the Justice Department and what Republicans see as political weaponization of such agencies.

The move cements the GOP’s sharp turn away from the FBI, once seen as one of the most trusted of agencies in the US government following Trump’s repeated claims he was illegally targeted by investigations and his failure to enlist the bureau as a weapon to advance his political grievances.

Rigorous scrutiny and oversight are inevitable and desirable as part of the constitutional duty of Congress and responsibility to ensure accountability with taxpayer money. And in the first two years of the Biden administration, there are multiple questions that merit further investigation and over which the White House has more clarity.

This includes the chaotic management of the withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, the way an investigation found no oversight spent or the administration’s unwillingness at least until recently to consider the rising numbers of migrants crossing the southern border a crisis. Proper oversight can avoid the repeat of errors and inform better policy in future.

But as always in Congress, there are questions over when genuine oversight stops and hyper-partisan politically motivated witch hunts begin, especially in the case of key Republicans who have a long record of crossing the line.

Incoming House Judiciary Chairman Rep Jim Jordan, for instance, was a leading player in a previous investigation by a GOP House into the death of US ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens and three other Americans who were killed by Islamic militents in Benghazi in 2012.

The two-year GOP-run House probe found a perfect storm of bureaucratic inertia, rapidly worsening security in Libya and inadequate resources led up to the killings. But Jordan was perhaps most criticized when the final report did not bear out conservative attacks on the conduct of Hillary Clinton—who was Secretary of State at the time of the deaths. Then-House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff released his own far more critical report, along with then Rep. Mike Pompeo, who later became Secretary of State himself. And at the time, McCarthy boasted that the investigation harmed Clinton’s 2016 presidential campaign, apparently revealing partisan motivations behind the probe.

As well as the building storm over classified documents, a key focus of the new GOP House majority will be to investigate the House Select Committee in the previous Democratic-run House that painted a damning picture of Trump’s behavior following the 2020 election and before the Capitol insurrection.

The fact that many of the current members of the House voted to deny certification of Biden’s election victory based on lies about electoral fraud Trump was using to try to steal power underscores why many observers are raising new questions about the partisan nature of Republican investigations.

But the information about documents found in Biden’s office. Republicans have a political gift when they see it.

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

Mr. Speaker, the difference is clear. Unlike in Trump’s case, Biden doesn’t appear to have tried to assert ownership of the files to obstruct their handover or make unhinged claims that he had previously declassified them through his thinking. Trump is being investigated to see whether he infringed the Espionage Act by keeping classified material and for the possible obstruction of justice.

I would just say to my colleague who spoke before, the American people also have elected officials, such as respecting the Constitution and respecting free and fair elections and not trying to overturn free and fair elections. Unfortunately, a majority of my friends on the other side of the aisle choose to ignore that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GOLDMAN).

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make some thing crystal clear: The primary purpose of this special subcommittee is to interfere with the special counsel’s ongoing investigation of a conspiracy to overturn the 2020 election.

This is a shocking abuse of power, but it is not just the usual efforts by Members on the other side of the aisle to, once again, do Donald Trump’s dirty work. This time they are trying to protect themselves.

One of them, a Member from Pennsylvania, had his cell phone seized pursuant to a court order finding probable cause that he committed a crime. Yet, he has insisted that he wants to be on this subcommittee so that he can undermine a criminal investigation into himself.

My Republican counterparts can dress up the subcommittee with a menacing name, but let’s call it what it really is: a Republican committee to obstruct justice.

The American people don’t want that. They don’t want another front of the Republican war on democracy and the rule of law.

Mr. Speaker, I will vote “no” and urge everyone to do so.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER), my very good friend and the distinguished incoming chairman of the Intelligence Committee.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, last Congress, I served as the ranking member of the Intelligence Committee. Chairman JORDAN and I have already been working to ensure that the Intelligence Community this time around is not violating the civil rights of law-abiding Americans.

Sadly, we already have very troubling evidence to begin our investigation to ensure that our intelligence community’s law enforcement agencies are not violating Americans’ constitutional rights. Some of this information is similar to what has been publicly disclosed by the Twitter files, which is a small portion of the information that we have that is gravely concerning about the improper use of government authority that this committee will be focusing on.

This subcommittee is about protecting rights, a tack everyone in this body just took an oath to protect last week. Our committee will be assisting this subcommittee. We look forward to working with Chairman JORDAN on this important issue, and we know that this is important to the American people.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article from The Guardian titled: “It’s going to be dirty: Republicans gear up for attack on Hunter Biden,” and an article from Politico titled: “It’s not just Hunter Biden: Prepare for a 2023 packed with House GOP investigations.”

[From the Guardian, Jan. 8, 2023]

“IT’S GOING TO BE DIRTY”: REPUBLICANS GEAR UP FOR ATTACK ON HUNTER BIDEN

(By David Smith)

When Borat—allies British actor Sacha Baron Cohen—told risqué jokes about Donald Trump and antisemitism at last month’s Kennedy Center Honors in Washington, Joe Biden was not the only one laughing in a red carpet-lined balcony.

Sitting behind the US president was Hunter Biden wearing black tie and broad smile that mirrored those of his father.

The image captured the intimacy between the men but also the sometimes awkward status of Hunter as both private citizen and privileged son of a president. It is a dichotomy likely to come under a harsh public glare this year as congressional Republicans set about making Hunter a household name and staple of the news cycle.

“The right wing is licking its chops at the chance to go after him,” said Joshua Kendall, author of First Dads: Parenting and Politics from George Washington to Barack Obama. The level of interest seems to be over the top and really, really dirty. The Republicans’ rhetoric might get so heated that it detracts from some of the actual behaviour.

Republicans have been waiting a long time for this moment. After regaining control of the House of Representatives in last November’s midterm elections, they used their first press conference to promise to investigate the Biden administration and, in particular, the president’s allegedly errant son.

Hunter has long been a source of questions about whether he traded on his father’s political career for profit, including efforts to strike deals in China and reported references in his tax returns to “tax fraud, money laundering, and foreign-lobbying violations”. But they have not produced evidence that it influenced US policy or that Joe Biden engaged in wrongdoing.

In 2022, the president’s son has been studying messages and financial transactions found on a new notorious laptop that...
belonged to Hunter. Having gained the maj-
ority, they now have the power to issue con-
gressional subpoenas to foreign entities that
did business with him.

Richard Neal, who was chief White
House ethics lawyer in the George W Bush
administration, believes that Joe Biden
should have recused himself from matters re-
lating to Hunter. The Ukrainian energy
company wanted to curry favour with Joe Biden
so they put his son on the board," he said.

"It’s pretty clear what’s going on there but
the main reason the Republicans are looking
for—but I don’t think they’re going to find—
is any kind of a quid pro quo, Joe Biden for the
Ukraine. Still, it would have been better if Joe Biden had said:
‘Look, my son is going to be on this board,
maybe the secretary of state or somebody else could handle Ukraine,’ and he’d step aside.

Hunter’s taxes and foreign business work
are already under federal investigation with
a grand jury in Delaware hearing testimony
in recent months. There are no indications
that this involves the president, who insists
that he has never spoken to Hunter about his
foreign business arrangements.

Republicans are pulling at another strand.
Ethics experts have accused Hunter of cash-
ing in on his father’s name as he pursues a career as an artist. He is representing
Georges Bergès Gallery in New York, which
reportedly struck an agreement with the White House to set the prices of the art and not reveal any buyers.

Bergès said in an Instagram post in No-
Vember that Republicans on the House over-
sight committee had written to him with “certain requests” and subsequently got into a Twitter debate with Painter about money and influence in art. Bergès wrote: “If you’re going to knock down the president then you have to go after all of them and every position that chil-
dren of Congress take in DC and elsewhere.”

Painter said in an interview: “I don’t think there’s anything corrupt about the White House or anything corrupt about President Biden. But keeping the identities of the art buyers secret was a bad idea. It leads to sus-
picion that people are passing money under
the table. It’s hard to keep who buys the art
secret in the close-knit world of Hunter Biden’s friends or Hunter Biden himself so the separation hasn’t worked.

Fox News and other rightwing media may relish an opportunity to demonise the presi-
dent’s son ahead of an election in 2024. But Republicans are also hoping to push Trump’s attempt to get Ukraine to examine
Hunter’s business dealings led to his first
impeachment. His efforts to weaponise Hunter’s troubles in the 2020 presidential election fiz-
zled.

David Brock, a veteran political operative
and president of Facts First USA, a new group in the conservative media space, says:
“Whatever we’re going to see in the hearings is a recycling of old
discussed stories and conspiracy theo-
ries. It’s not going to be new.”

[Congressman] Jim Jordan is on the record
saying that the investigations are all about
2024 and not Trump. Still, he has won the con-
ference. Illinois Rep. Rodney Davis,
the conference’s top Republican on the House Oversight Committee, had pledged to use
his panel as an investigative springboard into
the select committee next year but rec-
ently lost his primary to Rep. Mary Miller (R–Il.).

Some conservatives in the conference are pushing for investigations into debunked
2020 election fraud claims, underscoring how embedded former President Donald Trump’s
career is. It’s unclear how that will end have become
within the party.

Beyond the headline-grabbing probes, Re-
publicans are prepping more bread-and-but-
ter oversight hearings that will give nearly
every committee a pathway to dive into gov-
ernment agencies.

“The investigation is going to be significant. And we’ll have significant oversight of the Secu-
rities and Exchange Commission, as well as the [Consumer Financial Protection Bu-
nel and Rep. David Cicilline (D-R.I.),
who hopes to chair the Financial Services
Committee.

And while Republicans’ legislative dreams
will have been derailed because of Hunter
Biden’s ability to veto anything for the next
two years—they see their oversight goals
dovetailing with their legislative agenda, giving them another lane to pressure Biden and congressional Democrats. Investigations have a longer political half-life, spanning weeks and months beyond a one-time floor vote.

Armstrong pointed to a border security and immigration reform bill, a decade-long legislative priority for Republicans holding oversight hearings on related areas like fentanyl—potentially building pressure on Democrats heading into 2024.

“If you can’t get to 60 in the Senate, you can make it a real issue . . . going into the next election,” he said.

Mr. McGovern, Mr. Speaker, without a doubt, Mr. Jordan will use this subcommittee to go after people MAGA extremists see as their opponents. All the MAGA Republicans seem to want to do is create a forum for settling scores and pushing conspiracy theories. They are not interested in governing.

They want to go on FOX. They want to investigate Hunter Biden’s laptop. They want to try to steal elections. They want to shut down the government and get their way.

We are at a very dangerous moment in this country, and it is one of the reasons why many of us were so stunned that the new Speaker gave away so much of his authority to a group of extremists in the Republican Conference who have spent their entire careers trying to blow this place up.

The bottom line is this committee is basically an assurance that we are going to see these very partisan, political, MAGA-driven investigations go forward.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote “no.”

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. Grijalva).

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the time.

As Ranking Member NADLER from the Judiciary Committee said, H. Res. 12 is a dangerous government attempt to interject extremist politics into our justice system and shield MAGA extremists from legal consequences for their actions, including January 6 and the follow-up and investigations that are ongoing now. He is right about that Republicans. H. Res. 12 is both political cover and a political weapon.

Like any legislation, H. Res. 12 is driven by the motivation of its sponsors, the Republican majority in the House of Representatives. For example, legislation on climate change is motivated by urgency and our collective health and life, but H. Res. 12 is intended to intimidate, scare, and ultimately cower our public institutions into standing down as our descent into division and fascism continues.

Power for the sake of power is truly dangerous. H. Res. 12 is just that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a “no” vote.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. Zinke), a very good friend and a distinguished veteran who served the United States in a variety of capacities, in and out of uniform.

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a select committee to investigate the weaponization of the Federal Government, something I have a lot of experience with firsthand.

I proudly served as the 52nd Secretary of the Interior and I believe the deep state’s repeated attempts to stop me, I stand before you as a duly elected Member of the United States Congress and tell you that a deep state exists and is perhaps the strongest covert weapon the left has against the American people.

There is no doubt the Federal Government deep state coordinates with liberal activists and uses politicians and willing media to carry their water.

The deep state runs secret messaging campaigns with one goal in mind: to increase its power to censor and persuade the American people.

Dark money groups funded by liberal billionaires and foreign investors funnel taxes and悄悄将它们移交给一个目标组织，其目的是频繁地试图破坏美国西部。在许多情况下，它们试图将美国印第安人彻底地清除，移除公共土地，并将蒙大拿州转为国家公园，从而重新控制公共土地和我们的生活方式。

It’s common for groups to use both kinds of “pop-up” groups—how leftist “dark money” activists bring down Trump’s secretaries of the interior and pave the way for Biden’s radical environmentalists.

ARABELLA’S LONG WAR: WEB OF “POP-UP” GROUPS—HOW LEFTIST “DARK MONEY” ACTIVISTS BROUGHT DOWN TRUMP’S SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR AND PAVED THE WAY FOR BIDEN’S RADICAL ENVIRONMENTALISTS

(BY HAYDEN LUDMIG)

A WEB OF “POP-UP” GROUPS

Enter Arabella Advisors, a consulting firm based in Washington, DC, that quietly runs arguably the most powerful activist and lobbying shop. Arabella manages four in-house nonprofits collectively called the “sisters,” each of which controls a small army of activists and a legion of “pop-up” groups. And each “pop-up” group is made to look like a slick, stand-alone website. These “pop-up” groups target virtually every issue in politics—control of the courts, abortion access, gun control, and voter registration and mobilization, even the Trump-Russia collusion hoax—pushing left-wing policies in every area.

Until late 2019 the website for WVP and WVPA revealed a handful of staffers, including Chris Saeger, executive director for the Montana Democratic Party and its “sister,” Western Values Project (WVP), and Brian Schweitzer (D); and Yetta Stein, a staffer for the left-wing political action committee End Citizens United and staff for the 2019 reelection campaign Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT), the archived website also showed a small advisory board consisting of:

Kjersten Forseth, a former chief of staff for Colorado State Senate Democrats, former director of the left-wing strategy group ProgressNow Colorado and senior director for the Colorado AFL-CIO, and chief political strategist for Rocky Mountain Voter Outreach, a Denver-based get-out-the-vote and voter registration initiative;

Kent Salazar, an environmental health manager for Albuquerque, New Mexico, former New Mexico State Game commissioneer for Gov. Bill Richardson (D), and a board member for the left-wing National Wildlife Federation.

Pat Smith, a lawyer representing Indian tribes in Montana, member of the 2010 Montana Redistricting Commission, and appointee of Montana Gov. Steve Bullock (D) to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

WVP’s advisory board also included Carolline Ciccone, who in 2019 was executive director of the New Venture Fund and anti-Trump “oversight” group Restore Public Trust. Ciccone is a former communications director for the Democratic National Committee (DNC), Obama’s appointee to the U.S. Small Business Administration, and Democratic strategist. From 2014 to 2017 she led Americans United for Change (AUCF), a top-five liberal political action committee.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote “no.”

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Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. Zinke), a very good friend and a distinguished veteran who served the United States in a variety of capacities, in and out of uniform.
freak the f— out," Foval said in the video. "It is not hard to get some of these a—— to 'pop off.' " The scandal ultimately led back to Robert Creamer, co-founder of the powerful consulting firm Democracy Partners and a former general consultant to AUPC who directed parts of a vast network of advocacy groups aligned in support of Hillary Clinton's crusade against oil and the most radical environmental policies in American history.

Also present was Kyle Herrig, a New Venture Fund board member who sat on the advisory boards of at least five New Venture Fund projects, including American Over Reach, a judicial activist and litigation group; Allied Progress, which attacked Trump cabinet officials; and the Ciccone-run Restore Public Trust.

In early 2020 it was announced that Western Values Project and three other groups—"pop-up" groups rolling into a new organization: Accountable.US, itself a former New Venture Fund project fully established as an independent nonprofit sometime later and executive director Caroline Ciccone. (It appears that Western Values Project Action remains a project of Sixteen Thirty Fund, but that remains unclear as of writing.)

This reveals that Western Values Project, far from being a grassroots group, is "diabolical, and I love him for it." Within days of the video's release Creamer resigned, and Foval was fired.

Abigail Disney, a former general consultant to AUFC who directed parts of the half-billion-dollar network for 350.org, has also stated that "public lands are one of the easiest places for us to control the flow of carbon into the atmosphere."

Unsurprisingly, that's been the policy of Democratic presidential candidates since 2016. President Barack Obama canceled lease sales in the Arctic and Atlantic offshore sites and banned the leasing of coal on federal land. "Phasing down" the flow of fossil fuels from our public lands" was in the Democratic Party's 2016 platform. That same year a 350.org activist asked Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton what she meant by "extraction on public lands is a done deal?" Clinton replied, "That's where [President Obama] is moving: no future extraction whatsoever." Her running mate, Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine, later assured another 350.org activist that "I actually am now in that position."

But even "phasing down" is too conservative for today's "keep it in the ground" Left. No less than 20 Democratic presidential hopefuls vowed to ban drilling on public lands outright during their party's primary. Ever the pawn of the radical Left, on January 27, 2021—exactly one week after his inauguration—President Biden indefinitely suspended offshore oil and gas well drilling on public lands, which the left-leaning San Francisco Chronicle cheered as "a first step to halting the granting of federal drilling leases for years."

Why does this matter? Federal lands account for roughly 24 percent of America's oil, natural gas, and coal production. In 2019, total crude oil production reached an all-time high of 4.471 billion barrels, with a significant chunk of that growth coming from oil drilled on federal lands. Biden's ban blocks future development of these key resources, removing them from the supply stream and hampering the energy independently and only breed distrust with our national security and ecological cooperation.

The department also plays a role in foreign policy and national security. Under President Trump that included international diplomacy, countering threats from smuggling, encouraging trade of precious metals and rare earths, and promoting his Indo-Pacific security and economic strategy.

But the department's openness to expanding oil and gas production brought the sharpest attacks from the Left. Since the department is entirely under the president's purview, having thrived under Trump's public law is far easier than attempting to halt private oil and gas production nationwide—the radical Left's ultimate goal.

"The natural place to start phasing out supply is on our public lands and oceans where a ban on new leasing will keep up to 450 billion tons of carbon pollution in the ground," Center for Biological Diversity director Kieran Suckling said in 2015. Bill McKibben, founder of the ultra-leftist 350.org, said as an independent nonprofit sometime later that his firm helped Clinton's campaign violate the law, let's understand what just occurred here.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF).

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Republican select committee to investigate deep state conspiracy theories.

If you had any doubt about what this committee is really about, about its true focus, my colleague from Montana just confirmed this is all about deep state conspiracy theories.

Republicans claim, without merit, that this subcommittee will investigate the so-called weaponization of the Federal Government. What it is really intended to do is undermine the legitimate investigation of President Trump's incitement of a violent attack on this building, on this Capitol, on this citadel of democracy, an investigation that implicates some of the very Members of this body who want to sit on that committee.

Make no mistake, this investigation, this subcommittee, will do deep damage to our national security and only breed distrust with our national security professionals, who will be reluctant to share with Congress the information policymakers need to protect our country.

The committee will also seek to discredit law enforcement like the FBI, which has been so important in fighting against domestic violent extremism.

Republicans in Congress just don't care. The greatest terrorist threat to our country comes from violent, right-wing militia groups and their sympathizers, and Republicans in Congress just don't care.

The last time Republicans were in charge of the House, KEVIN McCARTHY

January 10, 2023

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE H137

[By Hayden Ludwig]

Summary: For years "dark money" activists ran a coordinated campaign to sabotage and undermine the Trump administration from the offices of Arabella Advisors in Washington, DC. The campaign culminated in a coordinated attack on the Trump administration's energy policy in American history under President Joseph Biden. This report goes inside that campaign to destroy Trump's Department of the Interior and promote the Left's war on affordable energy.

In 2019, the Capital Research Center's groundbreaking report on Arabella Advisors exposed the half-billion-dollar network for the first time, dragging Arabella into the limelight as the posterchild of the Left's "dark money" movement. Since we've continued to uncover this now $730 million activist empire, tracing its shadowy campaigns on everything from abortion on demand to public lands, runs the National Park Service, and maintains public monuments, including dozens attacked by radical Black Lives Matter activists in 2020.

The department also plays a role in foreign policy and national security. Under President Trump that included international diplomacy, countering threats from smuggling, encouraging trade of precious metals and rare earths, and promoting his Indo-Pacific security and economic strategy.

But the department's openness to expanding oil and gas production brought the sharpest attacks from the Left. Since the department is entirely under the president's purview, having thrived under Trump's public law is far easier than attempting to halt private oil and gas production nationwide—the radical Left's ultimate goal.

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Republicans in Congress just don't care. The greatest terrorist threat to our country comes from violent, right-wing militia groups and their sympathizers, and Republicans in Congress just don't care.

The last time Republicans were in charge of the House, KEVIN McCARTHY
pushed to form another bogus select committee, that one on Benghazi. He did so, as he admitted, to tear down Hillary Clinton’s numbers, a patently political exercise.

Now, McCarthy is at it again, pushed into forming this bogus subcommittee by the QAnon members of his own Conference.

He sacrificed a lot in his bid for Speaker. That was his choice. Now, the American people are going to pay the price in that form of a body blow to our national security.

Vote “no” on this ill-considered measure. This is no Church Committee, nor a bipartisan effort to reform government. It’s a partisan effort to tear it down, damn the consequences. Vote “no.”

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT), my very good friend.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, in response to the blue anon rhetoric, I rise in favor of H. Res. 12 to establish a subcommittee on the weaponization of the Federal Government. The authoritarian left has used the full might and authority of the Federal Government to force its agenda on the American people. The Federal Government has been weaponized to pressure private companies to censor conservatives; target parents as domestic terrorists simply for caring about their children and their education; manipulate the American people by declaring Hunter Biden’s laptop as Russian disinformation; even failing to inform American citizens about classified documents that a former Vice President had in his possession; and launch an unwarranted investigation into President Trump’s Presidential campaign.

Mr. Speaker, our Constitution is a contract with the American people and our government. That contract is designed to produce maximum freedom and minimum tyranny for this great country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Newhouse). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Sadly, the FBI and the DOJ, and many other agencies, are violating this contract and working to make the American people subjects rather than free citizens.

This committee is essential, and I encourage its creation and the adoption of this resolution.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H. Res. 12, the insurrection protection committee, which Speaker McCarthy, the 21st century McCarthyism, had to agree to last week in order to gain the Speakership.

MAGA extremist Republicans forced, as a consequence of getting their vote, the Speaker to promise to create this select committee. Donald Trump had his hands in. Donald Trump had his hands in it last week. During this circular firing squad, he was calling the shots, and this will benefit him.

This insurrection protection committee is set up to insulate the President, along with various MAGA Republicans who are still serving here in the House and who are under investigation. It is here to protect them and to come in here to disrupt the flow of justice in this country.

This is a dangerous, extreme committee that is put in the hands of a group of people who even defied congressional subpoenas and refused to come to testify before the January 6th Committee.

Now, they are trying to interfere with the Justice Department deliberations on whether or not they should be accused and charged with committing criminal offenses in the lead up to, on January 6, and thereafter. This is a very dangerous piece of legislation. MAGA Republicans are behind it, led by the head election denier in this country, who, by the way, instituted something down in Brazil this weekend. It is a worldwide affair. This is dangerous. We must stop it. Vote “no” on H. Res. 12.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCGOVERN). Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, with great power comes great responsibility. We entrust our Department of Justice, FBI, and intelligence community with great power to keep us safe. And yet, as long as these agencies have existed, they have violated everyday Americans’ civil rights.

The security state believes itself to be above the Constitution and the laws passed by Congress, or perhaps the belief is only maintained by those in power, not authority—power.

The FBI spied on Frank Sinatra, John Lennon, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Muhammad Ali because they were national security threats—celebrities, but everyday Americans as to their constitutional rights.

The intelligence community abused their power to spy on Presidential candidates, a sitting President, and Members of Congress and their staffs.

The FBI coordinated with social media companies to moderate social content, the public square. So contemptuous and out of touch are they that when confronted with this just weeks ago, they said: We were merely engaging with our community partners.

Leading up to the 2020 election, the FBI worked hand in hand with Twitter and Facebook to silence the Hunter Biden laptop story. Concernment from everyday Americans. They have continued to censor in silence criticism of COVID policies and vaccine mandates to the harm of everyday Americans.

In 2013, the former Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper, lied to Congress about the NSA collecting data on millions of Americans. Yet, he has escaped a reckoning.

The NSA spied on groups, including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and other NGOs. FBI contractors conducted thousands of searches on NSA databases. The intelligence community spied on journalists and political opponents in clear violation of the First Amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. That is not just all illegal. It is un-American, and it cannot continue. The government’s massive surveillance apparatus is well-documented, but there is still much more that we do not know. We owe it to the American people to remove the rot within the Federal Government and cut it out so that it can no longer harm everyday Americans.

Mr. Speaker, today we are putting the deep state on notice: We are coming for you on behalf of everyday Americans.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I remember after 9/11 when we all worked together to ensure the protection of the American people through the Patriot Act and dealing with the FISA courts, we worked together because truth is important.

I just want to simply be on the floor today to speak about truth. I work with school boards across my district. I know that there is not one school board that does not welcome a parent to hear their voices because obviously they are partners in the education of our precious children.

In September 2021, the National School Board Association sent Mr. Biden a letter pointing to a trend of violence and threats against school officials. It included a brief reference to Mr. Smith’s arrest incident and a long list of examples with a footnote to a news account that mentioned the arrest in passing but without details, like his daughter’s assault.

The point is that this came about because there were threats against school board members.

So can we have truth here? That is what I rise to bring to the attention of this body as relates to this committee and this select committee.

Mr. Speaker, is there going to be truth finding? Is this going to be a committee that is going to collect information or otherwise investigate citizens of the United States and give the most right-wing Members who may have an ax to grind the ability to participate or is it going to be a select committee?

Is it going to be a gross misuse of power with dangerous implications, unintended consequences, and potentially
expose general operations of our national security infrastructure, which will put American lives at risk?

Let me be very clear. Russia is one of our most dangerous adversaries. We are in the middle of a national quagmire, and we understand that thorough investigations of the FBI and national intelligence is going to be extremely dangerous.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. McGovern. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. Jackson Lee. Mr. Speaker, the passage of this resolution would also give MAGA Republicans the ability to interfere in ongoing criminal investigations, including those investigating that day that some declared was just a bunch of tourists on January 6, 2023.

Mr. Speaker. I have worked with my friends on the other side of the aisle. I have worked with Mr. Roy, but is this a question of truth? That is the issue that we stand here discussing today.

In this country, no one is above the law, and to suggest that some people should be because they don’t agree with the force of law being applied to their activities is contrary to the very fabric of fairness, justice, and equality that America was founded on.

Let me, as an aside, indicate that we know what has been in the headlines of 10 documents found in a locked closet that Mr. Biden may have had. Well, you know what, Mr. Speaker, the process of the law is proceeding. The call was made. The documents were surrendered, if you will. The process goes forward under the laws of this land. No one denied it. No one rejected it. No one did in any way come to say anything other than: Follow the law. On the other hand, in Mar-a-Lago no law was found.

Mr. Speaker. I ask my colleagues to consider the truth and vote against this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H. Res. 12, a dangerous resolution whose passage would establish a Select Committee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government or, more accurately, a subcommittee that would threaten our nation’s safety, security, and freedom.

MAGA Republicans love to hide behind the idea that they are pushing an agenda that would help the American people, but let’s see this for what it truly is, a blatant assault on our democracy, our law enforcement agencies, our justice system, and our intelligence community, and an attempt to shield the twice-impeached former president from ongoing investigations being conducted by the Department of Justice.

The establishment of this subcommittee would give Republicans the ability to investigate any agency that “can collect information or otherwise investigate citizens of the United States” and gives the most right-wing members of the Republican party access to confidential documents solely intended for the members of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

This gross misuse of power will have dangerous implications and unintended consequences and could potentially expose general operations of our national security infrastructure which will put American lives at risk.

The passage of this resolution would also give MAGA Republicans the ability to interfere in ongoing criminal investigations including those investigating the extremist insurrectionists who lead the brutal attack on this institution two years ago.

In this country, no one is above the law, and to suggest that some people should be, because they don’t agree with the force of law being applied to their activities, is contrary to the very fabric of fairness, justice, and equality that America was founded on.

This is a blatant attempt by House GOP members to stifle the federal government’s investigatory powers, claiming that conservativest are being prosecuted and silenced.

The new Select Subcommittee comes as federal agencies such as the Department of Justice are investigating the GOP and its allies in multiple criminal investigations.

Members of the Republican party have been pressed to establish this new subcommittee and have laid out their agenda, but how would this subcommittee help the American people in any way?

For a party that claims to be pro-law enforcement, the Republican party is now getting ready to undermine the hard work of our law enforcement and surveillance agencies.

Mr. Speaker. I urge all my colleagues to oppose this dangerous and a completely irresponsible Resolution that will put the lives of Americans at risk and is a political stunt to further advance their dangerous conspiracy theories.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article from The New York Times titled: “Republicans Preparing Broad Inquiry Into F.B.I. and Security Agencies.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 8, 2023]

HOUSE REPUBLICANS PREPARING BROAD INQUIRY INTO FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCIES

By Charlie Savage and Luke Broadwater

Newly empowered House Republicans are preparing a wide-ranging investigation into law enforcement and national security agencies, raising the prospect of politically charged fights with the Biden administration over access to sensitive information like highly classified intelligence and the details of continuing criminal inquiries by the Justice Department.

The House plans to vote this week on a resolution to create a special Judiciary subcommittee to carry out what the “weaponization of the federal government,” a topic that Republicans have signaled could include reviewing investigations into former President Donald J. Trump.

The panel would be overseen by Representative Jim Jordan, Republican of Ohio, who is also poised to become the Judiciary Committee’s chairman. It remains to be seen who else Speaker Kevin McCarthy, who made numerous concessions to a far-right faction of his party to win the speakership, will put on it.

In a Fox News interview on Friday evening, Representative Chip Roy of Texas, a lead negotiator for hard-right lawmakers who pushed Mr. McCarthy’s team for concessions, portrayed the panel as part of the agreement they struck for their support. He also said that Mr. McCarthy had promised to give the subcommittee at least as much funding and staffing as the House special committee in the last Congress that investigated the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

“So we got more resources, more specificity, more power to go after this recalcitrant Biden administration,” Mr. Roy said. “That’s really important.”

A spokesman for Mr. Jordan did not reply to a request for comment, but both he and Mr. McCarthy have spoken for months about their desire for such an investigation and pledged to voters during the 2022 campaign to carry one out.

“We will hold the swamp accountable, from the withdrawal of Afghanistan, to the origins of Covid and to the weaponization of the FBI,” Mr. McCarthy said in his first remarks as speaker early Saturday. “Let me be very clear: We will use the power of the purse and the power of the subpoena to get the job done.”

The text of the resolution establishing the subcommittee would give the panel essentially open-ended jurisdiction to scrutinize an issue related to the origins of the George Washington intelligence agencies will have tremendous implications and unintended consequences, including how any agency of the federal government has collected, analyzed and used information about Americans including “ongoing criminal investigations.”

The Justice Department has traditionally resisted making information about open criminal investigations available to Congress, suggesting that legal and political fights over subpoenas and executive privilege are most likely looming.

Republicans are promoting Mr. Jordan’s panel as a new “Church Committee,” referring to a 1970s investigation by Senator Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, that uncovered decades of intelligence and civil liberties abuses by presidents of both parties.

But in an environment in which Mr. Trump has been the subject of multiple criminal investigations for years—including continuing inquiries into his attempts to overturn the 2020 election results and his hoarding of sensitive documents—Democrats predicted the new investigative subcommittee was likely to adopt a more partisan edge.

Representative Jerrold Nadler of New York, the top Democrat on the Judiciary Committee, said the Church Committee had been “a serious and bipartisan attempt to reform the conduct of the intelligence community, based on hard and verifiable evidence.”

By contrast, he said that “this new thing, fueled by conspiracy theories and slanted to be run by the most extreme members of the MAGA caucus,” was likely to be more similar to the notorious House Un-American Activities Committee of the mid-20th century.

Mr. Jordan is a staunch ally of Mr. Trump. Last year, as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee when his party was still in the minority, he oversaw a 1,000-page report that claimed Mr. Biden had “spied on President Trump’s campaign and ridiculed conservative Americans” and that the “rot within the F.B.I. festered in and proceeded from Washington.”

The resolution appears to give him authority to subpoena the Justice Department for an open tax investigation into President Biden’s son, Hunter.

The text of the resolution would also grant Mr. Jordan’s panel the same highly classified information that intelligence agencies make available to their
intellige...nt committee, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Intelligence Committee members have access to some of the most sensitive secrets in the government, including information about covert actions, which are not shared with other lawmakers. Traditionally, House leaders tend to place on the intelligence panel party members they trust who are especially trustworthy not to disclose classified information.

While Mr. Jordan’s investigative unit will be housed within the Judiciary Committee, its 13 members—eight of whom would be Republicans—will not be limited to lawmakers on the panel.

It is not clear, for example, whether Republican leaders would select hard-right members, such as Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia, who was stripped of her committee assignments in 2021 for making a series of violent and conspiratorial social media posts before she was elected. Mr. McCarthy has already promised her a spot on the House Oversight Committee, and she broke with other far-right members to support his speakership bid from the floor, as did Mr. Jordan.

Such a situation could result in lawmakers trying to scrutinize a Justice Department investigation as that inquiry potentially examines the same lawmakers’ conduct concerning the events of Jan. 6.

In an interview on ABC’s “This Week” on Sunday, Representative Scott Perry, Republican from Pennsylvania and a former member of President Donald Trump’s cabinet, rejected a suggestion that he should pledge not to serve on Mr. Jordan’s subcommittee because it may scrutinize the Jan. 6 investigation and as a witness he had a conflict of interest. Mr. Perry, who played an important role in Mr. Trump’s attempt to overturn the results of the 2020 election, had his cellphone seized by the F.B.I.

“Why should I be limited—why should anybody be limited just because someone has made an accusation?” Mr. Perry said, adding: “I get accused of all kinds of things every single day, as does every member that serves in the public eye. But that doesn’t stop you from doing your job. It is our duty and it is my duty.”

Some Republicans also seem to see the panel as an opportunity to raise culture-war issues and conspiracy theories. In a recent interview with Fox, Mr. Roy described the subcommittee’s mission as going “after the weaponization of the government, the F.B.I., the intel agencies, D.H.S., all of them that have done this. We are not standing idly by, and it is time that the truth. We are going to defend the American people against the weaponization of government.”

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), my friend.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to my colleague from Texas as she recounted some of the realities when talking about school boards. Well, I have come to know Scott Smith of Loudoun County, I consider him a friend. I have been talking to him since the actions against his family—in response to his daring to go to the school board to question the abuse of his daughter—resulted in his name being put out as the poster child for the weaponization of government against parents who dare question school boards.

And, yes, in fact, the National School Board Association sent a letter. But what became increasingly clear is that it was in collusion with the White House seeking the letter. That has become readily clear from the emails that we have gotten through Freedom of Information Act requests, that the Biden White House was seeking the National School Board Association to have that kind of a letter request in order that they, the Biden administration, be able to target Scott Smith and other parents around this country.

Every American should shudder at this power of the government, the Federal Government, being targeted at parents for daring to stand up and defend a daughter who was abused in a bathroom in the Loudoun County Public Schools.

By any day, the superintendent in Loudoun County has been indicted. This is the truth. Yet, this administration wanted to make Scott Smith the bad guy—not the rapist, not the school board that allowed this to occur in the schools in Loudoun County. It is not just parents.

What about Bunni Pounds in the Christians Engaged organization? The IRS was targeting their nonprofit status because they happened to be religious. This is the power of the IRS.

How about the power of our public health elite who made decisions and put out misinformation that undermined the ability of Americans to go to work and continue to go to school? Instead, they were masked and had needles put in their arms.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ROY. Now we want to know the truth. Not the origins, but the truth. This committee is critically important, and we are going to find the truth. We are going to defend the American people against the weaponization of government.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would simply say in response to that the intent here are oversight committees that are equipped and ready to look into all the issues that the gentleman just raised, and into all the conspiracy theories that they want to raise. But they went ahead and created this additional committee, and there is a reason for it.

This new committee they are creating has the authority to basically investigate ongoing criminal investigations. It is unprecedented.

In any event, I would remind the gentleman, you have oversight committee. You are in charge now; you can do whatever you want to do.

But there is a reason for this committee and there is a reason why after 13 roll call votes for Speaker they added an additional line giving this committee the authority to look into ongoing investigations.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER), my very good friend, who served the country in and out of uniform.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise because Americans are completely fed up. They are fed up with being targeted. And the assertion that I just heard that MAGA Republicans are domestic terrorists, the assertion that this is happening throughout the country is just to tell my 90-year-old grandmother.

Mr. Speaker, this assertion has been made time and time again that MAGA Republicans will blow something up, that MAGA Republicans are terrorists. Listen, we have seen censorship and meddling by former intelligence community experts and current Federal law enforcement agencies against Republicans and preventing media stories from actually coming to light. This is a fact.

My friend from Texas just talked about the IRS and other agencies that have done this. We are not standing idly by, and it is time that the truth
comes out. When we say things like MAGA Republicans, I think we should all be very careful and not be disingenuous because there are plenty of good Americans and patriots that are willing to stand up to get the truth out.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, it is important that free speech be protected free speech be upheld. Noble, not slander, and not any sort of assertion that all MAGA Republicans are bad because we know that that is not true. In fact, there are many good Americans that are standing up for their rights.

Mr. MC戈VERN. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman just got up and made all kinds of assertions that things were just said that weren’t said. I don’t know what the hell he is talking about.

Mr. M COLE. Mr. Speaker, in order to enforce our laws, we give terrifying powers to such agencies as the FBI, the IRS, and the CIA, among others. The misuse of these powers to effect political outcomes would be fatal to freedom, and it is the hallmark of any dictatorship. This, our Constitution, was written to prevent whoever is in power.

Now, in recent years we have watched the IRS target individuals because of their political beliefs. We have seen a glaring double standard in the enforcement of our laws by our Justice Department based on the political beliefs of their targets. We have seen their powers used to intimidate citizens into silence, whether the Tea Party or parents questioning their school boards.

Most alarmingly, we have seen the use of the FBI and our intelligence agencies to suppress political viewpoints disagreeable to those in power or to manufacture or propagate one of the greatest scandals in American history: the Russian collusion hoax.

Now, when a government can interfere with the elections that govern it and when agencies can act independently of the outcome of these elections, then democracy will die.

This select committee is designed to get to the bottom of these alarming allegations, and I would hope the Democrats would be just as eager to sort this out as the Republicans. After all, it was not that long ago that these powers were turned against the left and could be again if we do nothing.

As Madison warned: Democracy alone is not enough to protect our liberty, for in a pure democracy, 51 percent of the people could at any time throw the other 49 percent in jail. That is why we have a Constitution which limits the powers of government through checks and balances like this Congress and like our Bill of Rights, and it is why each of us takes an oath to support and defend it.

Let us all honor that oath today.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me just make this clear for my colleague. A change was made in this legislation, and it was not just to allow the committee to investigate ongoing criminal investigations which is quite nefarious in and of itself.

Originally it was only supposed to be able to have investigative authority over the Department of Justice, DHS, and the FBI; the CIA and the IRS were added. This was all done after Speaker votes at 10 o’clock at night clearly in an attempt to win more votes.

The people who are asking for these changes are the same people who want to investigate the people who are investigating them.

This is really unprecedented. I don’t know what the hell is going on here, but this isn’t right. This isn’t openness, and this isn’t transparency.

My friends talk about corruption. This is corruption. This is unacceptable. The American people ought to know it, and reasonable colleagues on the Republican side ought to say no to this.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK), who is my very good friend.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, in order to enforce our laws, we give terrifying powers to such agencies as the FBI, the IRS, and the CIA, among others. The misuse of these powers to effect political outcomes would be fatal to freedom, and it is the hallmark of any dictatorship. This, our Constitution, was written to prevent whoever is in power.

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Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Oklahoma for yielding.

My friends on the other side of the aisle are so concerned all the time about civil rights, having the majority for the last few years, they are not interested. They are not interested in what the American people or the little guy has to say. They say he comes home from a hard day’s work. He watches the TV, and asks: How many more times do I have to say, huh, I told you so?

We just had Social Security numbers of the targets of the so-called J6 investigations released to the public.

Huh, I told you so. No surprise there.

What about the school board association working in collaboration with the White House, working in collaboration with the White House and the Department of Justice to intimidate American citizens.

Thirty miles from here, just a little drive from here, a young lady was raped. A schoolgirl was raped, and her father was concerned about her safety and had the gall to question the school board.

And what does he get? Persecution and intimidation by his own Federal Government.

I told you so. We all told you so.

People on important committees in this institution lie on national TV over and over and over again with no consequence. They come home and say: Yeah, I told you so. That is not a big surprise here.

The Federal Government is collaborating with Big Tech to silence Americans’ voices.

Where are their civil liberties?

The Federal Government is collaborating with Big Tech and the health agencies to silence information that concerns the health of every single American citizen.

Yeah, I told you so.

How many more times?

I ask the minority: How many more times do we have to say “I told you so” before you will recognize the overwhelming power and the abuse of power by this Federal Government? Will you ever do anything about it?

Do you know when you want to do something about it?

When you think you have the Presidency in 2024 and you try and regain this House, then you are going to be all into it investigating all your enemies.

That is not what the Federal Government is supposed to be for. It is supposed to protect our civil rights, so we don’t serve it but so that it serves us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to other Members in the second person.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would say what the gentleman just said is terrible, but this committee has absolutely nothing to do with that.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE).

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the very words expressed by those opposed to this committee demonstrate the dire need for this committee. We have gone 4 years without oversight, and to quote Shakespeare: “The lady doth protest too much, methinks.”

Those who argue against transparency may have something to hide. So I listened very closely when I heard the former chairman of the Intelligence Committee give the reason that maybe we shouldn’t ask for this information from the intelligence community.

He said that the intelligence community after this committee may be reluctant to share information with Congress and that Congress needs to craft legislation.

I would suggest if they are reluctant, then they are disqualified from holding
these positions. If they have grown so big that they are no longer accountable to the branch of government that created them, that funds them, and that is responsible for their oversight, then they need to be humbled.

I implore my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to cooperate with this committee with serious Democrats. I know there are some over there. I have worked with them. We have cosponsored amendments on privacy over the past decade. Some of them have passed. Please populate it with serious Members.

Please, to my colleagues on this side of the aisle, give us the resources we need to do this job.

If I may rebut one thing that man said on the other side of the aisle about ongoing criminal investigations, he said that it is unprecedented that Congress would engage in an investigation that involves an ongoing criminal investigation.

What about the January 6 Committee? This is not unprecedented. It is what you wasted millions of dollars on over the past 2 years.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this rule and support for the committee that won.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would just say in response to the gentleman who said that he hopes that we populate this select committee with serious Democrats that he populate the committee with Republicans who did not ask for a pardon and who did not have their phones seized by the FBI.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 1/2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE).

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma for yielding.

Last week, as I fought as one of the 20 conservative Members to secure victories for the American people by dismantling this institution’s broken system and restoring this people’s House as it should be, part of the status quo here in Washington, which we fought to change, is politicians making empty promises of government accountability.

But believe me in this, Mr. Speaker, when we vowed accountability is coming, we meant it. Establishing the Select Committee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government hands the House a powerful tool to uncover the two-tiered justice system that is rotting our Republic.

It is no secret that alphabet agencies have been dangerously weaponized against the American people. As an alarming example, the FBI has coerced citizens to relinquish their Second Amendment rights and has used Big Tech companies as private-sector proxies to silence Americans’ free speech.

It is up to this committee to investigate these agencies’ atrocious behavior and abuse of power in disregarding and destroying America’s precious freedoms, and this select subcommittee will have the teeth to do just that.

I thank Speaker McCarthy and Chairman COLE for their invaluable support in bringing this resolution to the floor for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting for this resolution so we may deliver transparency, answers, and, yes, accountability to the American people as we have committed.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article from The Hill titled: “Perry won’t agree to stay off new House committee investigating January 6 probes.”

[From The Hill, Jan. 8, 2023]

PERRY WON’T AGREE TO STAY OFF NEW HOUSE COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING JAN. 6 PROBES

(By Julia Mueller)

Rep. Scott Perry (R-Pa.) on Sunday wouldn’t pledge to stay off the possible new House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol despite being a subject of a Department of Justice (DOJ) inquiry into the matter.

“Why should I be limited—why should anybody be limited—just because someone has made an accusation? Everybody in America is innocent until proven guilty,” Perry said on ABC’s “This Week.”

Host George Stephanopoulos pressed Perry, asking, “Doesn’t that pose a conflict to you, since you’re also part of the investigation?”

“So, should everybody in Congress that disagrees with somebody be barred from doing the oversight and investigative powers that Congress has? That’s our charge. And again, that’s appropriate for every single member, regardless of what accusations are made. I get accused of things every single day, as does every member that serves in the public eye,” Perry countered.

Newly elected Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) has indicated the Republican majority just sworn in plans to review the work of the House select committee that last year probed Jan. 6 and look into the federal investigations.

DOJ investigations seized Perry’s phone in connection with the rioting, and obtained small exchanges between Perry and former Trump attorney John Eastman, among others. Perry also introduced former President Trump to Jeffrey Clark, whom Trump considered appointing as attorney general in connection with the rioting, and obtained small exchanges between Perry and former Trump attorney John Eastman, among others.

Perry also introduced former President Trump to Jeffrey Clark, whom Trump considered appointing as attorney general in order to propagate his claims of election fraud during the 2020 presidential contest.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield.

Mr. Speaker, I would advise my friend that I am prepared to close whenever he is.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want us to roll up our sleeves and get to work. They want us to make progress and deliver results that help them in their day-to-day lives.

They don’t need Congress to bend and break to the will of MAGA extremists, and they definitely don’t need us to push crazy conspiracy theories and go on witch hunts to settle political scores.

My friends in their rules package gutted the Office of Congressional Ethics, and here they are with this new subcommittee which threatens our safety, our security, and our freedom.

It is an unprecedented attack on our Nation’s law enforcement agencies, our justice system, and our intelligence community.

Mr. Speaker, I would just say to my colleagues who spoke before about the intelligence oversight, we have an entire Select Committee that has oversight responsibilities on those matters. I am sorry the gentleman who spoke doesn’t have confidence in whom the Republicans are going to propose as chair.

This committee is deranged. It is a bad idea, and it will go down in history as one of the worst committees that a Congress has ever put forward. It will be in the same category as the Joseph McCarthy Committee on Un-American Activities or the Benghazi Committee where new House members were disempowered.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a “no” vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution. In response, Congress created the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government.

In the 1970s it was apparent from revelations in the popular press that the American intelligence community had committed abuses as part of their activities. In response, Congress created the Church Committee which investigated these abuses and brought them into the light.
Today, it is again apparent that the Federal Government has been weaponized for political purposes. Like the Church Committee—which this subcommittee is modeled on—the Select Subcommitte on the Weaponization of the Federal Government will investigate the abuse of Americans’ civil liberties and bring them into the light. I am confident that this subcommittee will do the American people a great service. They deserve to have confidence in their government, and that confidence starts with ensuring that the vast powers of the executive branch are not abused.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote “yes” on the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H. Res. 12, a dangerous resolution whose passage would establish a Select Committee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government or, more accurately, a subcommittee that would threaten our nations safety, security, and freedom.

MAGA Republicans love to hide behind the idea that they are pushing an agenda that would help the American people, but let’s see this for what it truly is, a blatant assault on our democracy, our law enforcement agencies, our justice system, and our intelligence community, and an attempt to shield the twice-impeached former president from ongoing investigations being conducted by the Department of Justice.

The establishment of this subcommittee would give Republicans the ability to investigate any agency that “can collect information or otherwise mislead citizens of the United States” and gives the most right-wing members of the Republican party access to confidential documents solely intended for the members of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

This gross misuse of power will have dangerous implications and unintended consequences and could potentially expose general operations of our national security infrastructure which will put American lives at risk.

The passage of this resolution would also give MAGA Republicans the ability to interfere in ongoing criminal investigations including those investigating the extremist Insurrectionists who lead the brutal attack on this institution two years ago.

In this country, no one is above the law, and to suggest that some people should be, because they don’t agree with the force of the law being applied to their activities, is contrary to the very fabric of fairness, justice and equality that America was founded on.

This is a blatant attempt by House GOP members to stifle the federal government’s investigatory powers, claiming that conservatives are being prosecuted and silenced.

The new Select Subcommittee comes as federal agencies such as the Department of Justice are investigating the GOP and its allies in multiple criminal investigations.

Members of the Republican party have been on press tours announcing this new subcommittee and have laid out their agenda, but how can this subcommittee help the American people in anyway?

For a party that claims to be pro-law enforcement, the Republican party is now getting ready to undermine the hard work of our law enforcement and surveillance agencies.

Mr. Speaker what really is the intent here? I can tell you what I think it is. It is a back door effort to handcuff the current administration in their normal and usual course of operation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to oppose this dangerous and a completely irresponsible Resolution that will put the lives of Americans at risk and is a political stunt to further advance their dangerous conspiracy theories.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 5, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

The question is on adoption of the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

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 2 o’clock and 29 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

☐ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 4 p.m.

SWEARING IN OF RESIDENT COMMISSIONER-ELECT

The SPEAKER. Will the Resident Commissioner-elect present herself in the well.

Miss GONZALEZ-COLON of Puerto Rico appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations. You are now a member of the 118th Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEGER of Texas). Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Agreeing to House Resolution 11; and

Agreeing to House Resolution 12.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE STRATEGIC COMPETITION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 11) establishing the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 365, nays 65, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 26]

YEAS—365

Adams

Cicilline

Franklin, C.

Aderholt

Ciscomani

Scott

Aguiar

Clark (MA)

Fulcher

Allen

Cleveland

Gaetz

Allen

Cloud

Gallegos

Amodei

Clyde

Garamendi

Armstrong

Cohen

Garbarino

Arnold

Cole

Gavilan

Ashcraft

Collins

Garcia (TX)

Auchincloss

Coren

Garcia, Mike

Babin

Correa

Gimenez

Banko

Costa

Gonzales, Tony

Barr

Courtney

Gonzales, Troy

Beatty

Craig

Good (VA)

Bentz

Crandall

Gooden (TX)

Berenicrnan

Creswell

Gosar

Beyer

Curtis

Gotttheimer

Biceps

Davids (KS)

Granger

Blakeman

De La Cruz

Graleva

Blinken

Dean (GA)

Greene (GA)

Bodman

DeLaurier

Griffith

Bourjesson

DeLuca

Grijalva

Bourne

DeLuna

Grotchen

Bost

Diaz-Balart

Guest

Boyle (PA)

Diamond

Guthrie

Brodren

Diaz-Balart

Hagaman

Buchanan

Dingell

Hagerty

Buck

Doonan

Harrington

Buckingham

Doocy

Hays

Buckmaster

Drahozal

Hayes

Burges

Edwards

Hern

Burson

Elston

Higginbotham (LA)

Calvert

Emmer

Higgins (NY)

Camack

Enzi

Hill

Carrasquilla

Engel

Hinojosa

Carbone

Espy

Hinchman

Carroll

Evers

Hobbs

Carvajal

Faithhorne

Hobson

Cardenas

Fagalde

Houlahan

Carr

Farrell

Houlahan

Carlson

Ferguson

Hoyle (OR)

Carter (GA)

Fischer

Hoyer

Carter (TX)

Fitzgerald

Huffman

Carter

Fitzpatrick

Hunt

Cartwright

Flaherty

Hunt

Casteen

Flake

Jackson (NC)

Castex

Florida

Jackson (TX)

Castro (FL)

Foster

Jacobs

Castro (TX)

Foxx

Garcia

Issa

Garcia (TX)

Jackson

Garcia, Mike

James

Garner

Jackson

Jeffries

Gidley

Jasper

Johnson (LA)
SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the resolution of the House. This is a 5-minute vote. The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 221, nays 21, not voting 221, nays 211, not voting 2, as follows:

[NAY—211]

[RESOLVED.CONGRESSIONAL.RECORD.HOUSE.117.Rегоде.2023.01.10.T00.23.18884416.DC.СТ.0000000001]
ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 14
Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.—Mr. Thompson of Pennsylvania, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.—Ms. Granger, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES.—Mr. Rogers of Alabama, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET.—Mr. Atkinson, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE.—Ms. Foxx, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE.—Mrs. Rodgers of Washington, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES.—Mr. Palmieri, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.—Mr. McCaul, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY.—Mr. Green of Tennessee, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.—Mr. Jordan, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES.—Mr. Westerman, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.—Mr. Comer, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON RULES.—Mr. Cole, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY.—Mr. Lucas, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS.—Mr. Williams of Texas, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE.—Mr. Graves of Missouri, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS.—Mr. Bost, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.—Mr. Smith of Missouri, Chair.

CUTS TO THE IRS

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the Republican decision to cut funding from the Internal Revenue Service.

This funding was part of President Biden’s critical Inflation Reduction Act. The $80 billion for the IRS enforcement would have forced tax-cheating corporations and wealthy Americans to finally pay their fair share. Instead, Republicans chose to rescind $2 billion of that money and forced a 2 percent cut to the agency funding in the last spending package.

The IRS support would have collected billions in taxes, boosted our economy, and lowered the Nation’s debt ceiling, issues that the Republicans claim are important.

Instead, this vote shows Republicans prefer to protect the tax-evading secrets of the wealthiest 1 percent and not give tax breaks to hardworking American families that need it the most. It makes them shameless corporate stewards and embarrassing public officials.

GO DAWGS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the recently crowned 2023 College Football National Champions, the Georgia Bulldogs. This is the second year in a row the Dawgs have won the national championship. The team finished with a 15-0 record and had a Heisman finalist quarterback, Stetson Bennett.

In the championship game, the Dawgs demolished the TCU Horned Frogs 65-7. This is the largest bowl win in FBS history.
The First District’s very own Stetson Bennett finished the night with 304 yards and 6 touchdowns. He was also named the offensive MVP.

I personally congratulate Nolan Smith, Micah Morris, Warren McClendon, Jack Podlesny, Darris Smith, and all of our other First District players.

Congratulations to the 2023 national champions, the Georgia Bulldogs. Go Dawgs.

COMPLIMENTING STEVE HARTMAN
(Ms. KAPURT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPURT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to compliment Steve Hartman of CBS News on his recent broadcast centered on the kindness of everyday Americans.

Practicing kindness in our daily lives is a central part of what makes America strong. Kindness plays an integral role in building family and community life and is a bedrock of civil society.

Hartman’s CBS News series “Kindness 101” shares stories of compassion, friendship, and everyday acts of kindness.

One story is about a woman in Minneapolis offering free haircuts to the homeless. Another is about my fellow Ohioans contributing to a young girl’s visual bucket list before she loses her eyesight. These stories teach us lessons about the unending compassion of the American people.

Both inspirational and honorable, these stories also serve as a reminder to Americans. Each of us hold the power to make positive impacts on the lives of others in our workplaces and community.

Congratulations to Steve for reminding us just how impactful everyday acts of kindness are on strengthening the United States of America.

CRISIS AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER
(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, the population ought to be aware of the fact that very late in the last month the Biden administration released the new figures on what we will call legal immigrants crossing into this country. This was before there were any changes in title 42, and a lot of the focus lately has been on title 42.

We had another all-time record in November with 210,000 people crossing the border and staying here. This is a national scandal. Just making a brief appearance at the border shouldn’t get Joe Biden off the hook. 210,000. By comparison, a year ago, it was 140,000. Two years ago, under title 42, it was 25,000. When you are going under 25,000 to 210,000, that should be the headline in every paper of the country, and I don’t care whether you release the numbers late in the day on a Friday or not.

I hope this institution does all we can to pick up the mantle that President Biden has dropped and do something about the massive increase in illegal immigration.

PASSING IMPORTANT LEGISLATION
(Ms. STEVENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the incredible people of Oakland County, Michigan, and Michigan’s 11th District, let it be known that the very first action of the new Republican majority was to add $100 billion to our national debt, to aid the ultra-wealthy and the non-tax paying corporations, to add to our deficit at the expense of the middle class.

We saw this before, Mr. Speaker. In fact, we have seen this time and time again threats to the fiscal integrity of our Nation, ballooning of our debt, and the Democrats come in time and time again to clean it up.

Since being sworn into Congress, my office has helped more than a thousand constituents navigate IRS-related issues, illustrating the ongoing and vital need for adequate funding for this Nation, helping people who are seeking a tax return, helping the small business owners.

The most rewarding call you can make as a Member of Congress: Have I helped you today?

The truth is, Mr. Speaker, we must unite, we must continue to come together, and we must continue to deliver for the people who elected us.

INTRODUCING NEW LEGISLATION
(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, all of us are concerned about the bullying of Communist China. I hope as we move forward, this committee that has been voted on will emphasize the bullying, but it will not emphasize the legitimization that occurred during COVID with “Kung Flu” and dealing with the intimidation and the increase of Asian hatred and violence.

That is why some of us were concerned enough not to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, let me also say that in addition to wanting us to do better, I am excited about introducing the Battle Buddy Check legislation that has our veterans check on each other, just as if they are on the battlefield, to stop the rise of veteran suicide.

Have a battle buddy. This legislation is hopefully to save lives of our soldiers who are now veterans who have done and they could be Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I am excited about the introduction of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Congressional Gold Medal.
Lyndon Baines Johnson will be looked upon as one of the greatest Presidents, giving opportunity to those who never had it in education and healthcare and the environment and criminal justice reform and the right to vote and rights.

I ask my colleagues to join me in the Congressional Gold Medal for Lyndon Baines Johnson.

118TH CONGRESS REGULATIONS FOR USE OF DEPOSITION AUTHORITY AND REMOTE PARTICIPATION OF COMMITTEE WITNESSES


Dear Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY: Pursuant to section 3(j) and section 3(k) of H. Res. 5, 118th Congress, I hereby submit simultaneously for the remote participation of committee witnesses and the regulations for the use of deposition authority for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Sincerely,

CHAIRMAN TOM COLE.

REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF DEPOSITION AUTHORITY

1. Notices for the taking of depositions shall specify the date, time, and place of examination. Depositions shall be taken under oath administered by a member or a person otherwise authorized to administer oaths. Depositions may continue from day to day.

2. Consultation with the ranking minority member shall include three days’ notice before any deposition is taken. All members of the committee shall also receive three days’ written notice that a deposition will be taken, except in exigent circumstances. For purposes of these procedures, a day shall not include Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays except when the House is in session on such a day.

3. Witnesses may be accompanied at a deposition by two designated personal, non-governmental attorneys to advise them of their rights. Only members, committee staff designated by the chair or ranking minority member, an official reporter, the witness, and the witness’s two designated attorneys are permitted to attend. Other persons, including government agency personnel, may not attend.

4. The chair of the committee noticing the deposition may designate that deposition as part of a joint investigation between committees, and in that case, provide notice to the members of the committees. If such a designation is made, the chair and ranking minority member of the additional committee(s) may designate committee staff to attend pursuant to regulation 3. Members and designated staff of the committees may attend and ask questions as set forth below.

5. A deposition shall be conducted by any member or committee counsel designated by the chair or ranking minority member of the Committee that noticed the deposition. When depositions are conducted by committee counsel, there shall be no more than two committee counsel permitted to participate in a deposition witness per round. One of the committee counsel shall be designated by the chair and the other by the ranking minority member.

6. Deposition questions shall be propounded in rounds. The length of each round shall not exceed 60 minutes per side and shall provide equal time to the majority and the minority. In each round, the member(s) or committee counsel designated by the chair shall ask questions of the witness, and the member(s) or committee counsel designated by the ranking minority member shall ask questions of the witness.

7. Objections must be stated concisely and in a non-argumentative and nonsuggestive manner. A witness’s attorney may not instruct a witness to refuse to answer a question, except to preserve a privilege. In the event of professional, ethical, or other misconduct by the witness’s attorney during the deposition, the attorney may be required to answer any appropriate disciplinary action. The witness may refuse to answer a question only to preserve a privilege. When the witness has refused to answer or to preserve a privilege, members or staff may (i) proceed with the deposition, or (ii) either at that time or at a subsequent time, seek a ruling from the Chair either by telephone or otherwise.

8. When the Chair overrules any such objection and thereby orders a witness to answer any question to which an objection was lodged, the witness shall be ordered to answer. If a member of the committee chooses to appeal the ruling of the chair, such appeal shall be made to the Majority Leader, and shall be preserved for committee consideration. The Committee’s ruling on appeal shall be filed with the clerk of the Committee and shall be provided to the members and witness no less than three days before the reconvened deposition. A deponent who refuses to answer a question after being directed to answer by the chair may be subject to sanction, except that no sanctions may be imposed if the ruling of the chair is reversed by the committee on appeal.

9. The Committee shall ensure that the testimony is either transcribed or electronically recorded or both. If a witness’s testimony is transcribed, the witness or the witness’s attorney shall be afforded an opportunity to review a copy. No later than five days after the witness has been notified of the opportunity to review the transcript, the witness may submit suggested changes to the chair. Committee staff may make any typographical and technical changes. Substantive changes, modifications, clarifications, and changes in deposition transcript submitted by the witness must be accompanied by a letter signed by the witness requesting the changes and a statement of the witness’s intent to make the proposed change. Any substantive changes, modifications, clarifications, or amendments shall be included as an appendix to the transcript conditioned upon the witness signing the transcript.

10. The individual administering the oath, if other than the chair or ranking minority member, shall mark on the transcript that the witness was duly sworn. The transcriber shall certify that the transcript is a true record of the testimony, and the chair and ranking minority member of the committee in Washington, DC, as well as the location actually taken once filed there with the chair or the committee for the committee’s use. The chair and the ranking minority member shall be provided with a copy of the transcripts of the deposition at the same time.

11. A witness shall not be required to testify unless the witness has been provided with a copy of section 3(k) of H. Res. 5, 118th Congress, and these regulations.

REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF DEPOSITION AUTHORITY OF COMMITTEE WITNESSES

Except as provided by section 3(j) of H. Res. 5, 118th Congress and these regulations, no witness shall testify before a committee in person. No remote testimony will be accepted from witnesses testifying in a government capacity. In the event the chair of a committee determines that testimony of a witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity is necessary and such a witness is only available to participate remotely due to exigent circumstances, the chair may allow the witness to participate remotely, with written approval from the Majority Leader.

Any text-based or video conferencing software platform used to facilitate the participation of a remote witness shall include a secure line of communication to allow for technical support to the witness, which may be excluded from the public video stream and will not be considered a committee record.

Any witnesses applying for remote participation may have participatory access on the software platform.

Witnesses assisting in a remote proceeding may utilize a software platform certified by the Chief Administrative Officer. The Chief Administrative Officer should inform committees, including the ranking minority member, that each time a software platform is certified.

Witnesses participating remotely should appear before a nonpolitical, professional appropriate background that is minimally distracting to other members and witnesses, to the greatest extent possible. It remains within the full discretion of the chair to enforce rules of decorum for committee proceedings. Any committee report of activities submitted pursuant to clause 1(d)(1) of rule XI shall include a list of hearings conducted with remote participation.

A witness participating remotely in a committee proceeding shall be visible onscreen with any software platform used by the chair. The witness shall disclose to the chair and ranking minority member any additional individual(s) present off screen.

Witness counsel shall have access on the remote proceeding software platform if they are not in the physical presence of the witness. Witness counsel is recommended to use such a secure line of communication while testifying to confer with counsel.
A witness may not allow an individual not invited to testify to speak on the platform. The committee chair may only provide an exception when the other individual is necessary to facilitate the witness's participation in the hearing (e.g., translators).

A chair may not authorize remote participation for more than one witness at a committee hearing without the approval of the Majority Leader in writing and printed in the Congressional Record.

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-1. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Mitigating the Spread of COVID-19 in Head Start Programs (RIN: 0970-AE90) received January 9, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Conduct of Persons and Traffic on the National Institutes of Health Federal Enclave [Docket Number: NIH-2020-0002] (RIN: 0925-AA67) received January 9, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-676, “Coronavirus Immunization of School Students Temporary Amendment Act of 2022”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-679, “District Government Family Bereavement Leave Second Temporary Amendment Act of 2022”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-5. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-680, “Uniform Power of Attorney Designation Act of 2022”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-683, “Limited Equity Cooperative Housing Group Federal Incentives Act of 2022”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.


EC-8. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-645, “Child Development Facility Lead Testing Amendment Act of 2022”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-9. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-646, “Human Rights Sanctuary Amendment Act of 2022”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-10. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-652, “Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, January 11, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-11. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-654, “Medical Marijuana Plant Count Elimination Temporary Amendment Act of 2022”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-12. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-658, “Medical Marijuana Plant Count Elimination Temporary Amendment Act of 2022”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-13. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-659, “The Spice Suite LLC Grant Establishment Temporary Amendment Act of 2022”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-14. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-674, “Stormiyah Denson-Jackson Economic Damages Equity Act of 2022”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.


EC-16. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-683, “Joint Property Protection Amendment Act of 2022”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-17. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-684, “Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-18. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-684, “Low-Income Litigants Amendment Act of 2022”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-19. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-684, “Enhancing Reproductive Health Protections Amendment Act of 2022”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-20. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-684, “W. Cardell Shelton Way Designation Act of 2022”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

H.R. 232. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to prioritize veterans court treatment programs for racial and ethnic minorities and women, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BANKS:

H.R. 233. A bill to amend the Revised Statutes of the District of Columbia to authorize the use of TikTok on electronic devices, including for higher education unless the institution has banned use of TikTok on electronic devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 235. A bill to provide for research and education with respect to triple-negative breast cancer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 236. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to designate a week as "Battle Buddy Check Week" for the purpose of outreach and education concerning peer wellness checks for veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BIGGS:

H.R. 237. A bill to repeal the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as may be involved in the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BROWNLEY (for herself, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 239. A bill to amend the America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to provide for same day registration; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 240. A bill to preserve knowledge and promote education about jazz in the United States and abroad; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as may be involved in the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CALVERT (for himself, Mr. WALTZ, and Mr. GOTHENBERG):

H.R. 241. A bill to amend the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to promote compliance through education, to clarify the requirements for demand letters, to provide for a notice and cure period before the commencement of a private civil action, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 242. A bill to require that activities carried out by the United States in South Sudan relating to reconstruction and development, and refugee relief and assistance support the basic human rights of
women and women’s participation and leadership in these areas; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CARSON, Mr. DOGGITT, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. TTIPUS):

H.R. 243. A bill to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 and the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to require producers to establish disaster preparedness plans to be eligible for certain disaster assistance programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DOGGITT, Ms. KAPUUR, Mr. KILMER, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. COTTERY):

H.R. 244. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the exclusion of Medicare prescription drug benefits for hearing aids and examinations therefor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 245. A bill to establish a grant program for nebulizers in elementary and secondary schools; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ESTES:

H.R. 246. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from imposing a fee on certain facilities for methane emissions; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ESTES:

H.R. 247. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Chisholm National Historic Trail and the Western National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ESTES:

H.R. 248. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to exclude certain populations of fair skinned fowl from the authority of such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FLEISCHMANN:

H.R. 249. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to enhance the authority under which Federal agencies may pay cash rewards to employees for making cost saving disclosures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself and Mr. KILMER):

H.R. 250. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to make certain job training projects and activities eligible for financial assistance from a State water pollution control revolving fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 251. A bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Vallejo, California, as the "Delphine Metcalf-Foster VA Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California (for himself, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. LATURK, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. NOE of Kentucky, and Mr. GROTHMAN):

H.R. 252. A bill to create a point of order against spending that will increase inflation unless inflation is not greater than 4.5 percent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Miss GONZALEZ-COLON (for herself, Ms. RADWAGAEN, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MOYLAN, and Mr. SOTO):

H.R. 253. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to transition the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to the supplemental nutrition program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Miss GONZALEZ-COLON:

H.R. 254. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the administration of the TRICARE program in Puerto Rico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Miss GONZALEZ-COLON (for herself, Ms. PLASKETT, and Mr. PETERO):

H.R. 255. A bill to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to develop a study regarding streamlining and consolidating information collection and preliminary damage assessments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Miss GONZALEZ-COLON (for herself, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. SARABAN):

H.R. 256. A bill to extend the supplemental security income program to Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Miss GONZALEZ-COLON (for herself, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. MOYLAN):

H.R. 257. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make residents of Puerto Rico eligible for the earned income tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Miss GONZALEZ-COLON (for herself and Mr. SOTO):

H.R. 258. A bill to improve the collection and publication of statistics relating to Puerto Rico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Miss GONZALEZ-COLON (for herself, Ms. PLASKETT, and Ms. MALLOTAKIS):

H.R. 259. A bill to provide for an online repository for certain reporting requirements for recipients of Federal disaster assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business and Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia (for himself, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 260. A bill to prevent a fiscal crisis by enacting legislation to balance the Federal budget through reductions of discretionary and mandatory spending, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 260. A bill to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to eliminate Congressional review of newly-passed District laws; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SIMPSON (for himself and Mr. FULCHER):

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia (for himself, Ms. MACE, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 261. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to direct the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 262. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the publication, by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, of information relating to rulemakings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HUIZENGA (for himself and Mr. MOONEY):

H.R. 263. A bill to prohibit any rule or guidance that bans gas stoves in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio (for himself, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. LATURK, Mr. STEWART, Mr. LATTA, Ms. TRENCH, and Mr. AMORE):

H.R. 264. A bill to amend section 530D of title 28, United States Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 265. A bill to eliminate automatic pay adjustments for Members of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MALLOTAKIS:

H.R. 266. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to grant a Federal charter to the National Lighthouse Museum; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MAST (for himself, Mr. PERRY, Mrs. HINSON, Mrs. MILLER-MEeks, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. OWENS, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. GUEST, Mr. FERNSTRA, Mrs. LEEKO, Mr. STENHOUSE, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mrs. TENNY, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. WOMACK, Mrs. BORZERT, and Mr. FINNSTAD):

H.R. 267. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide that the transportation of goods from a port of entry and another place within the same State as such port does not constitute interstate transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MAST (for himself, Mr. PERRY, Mrs. HINSON, Mrs. MILLER-MEeks, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. OWENS, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. GUEST, Mr. FERNSTRA, Mrs. LEEKO, Mr. STENHOUSE, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mrs. TENNY, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. WOMACK, Mrs. BORZERT, and Mr. FINNSTAD):

H.R. 268. A bill to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to eliminate Congressional review of newly-passed District laws; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SIMPSON (for himself and Mr. FULCHER):
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. BROWNLEY:
H. R. 239.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, 4, 8 & 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:
H. R. 240.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, 4, 8 & 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CALVERT:
H. R. 241.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3, and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ESTES:
H. R. 245.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3, and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ESTES:
H. R. 246.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 2
To regulate Commerce with Foreign Nations, and among the several states, and with Indian tribes.

By Mr. FLEISCHMANN:
H. R. 249.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
This resolution and (2) the single subject of legislation pursuant to the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:
H. R. 230.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 5, and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BABB:
H. R. 231.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 14, 18, and Amendments 6 and 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BANKS:
H. R. 233.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:
H. R. 236.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 14, 18, and 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BERGMAN:
H. R. 234.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
This resolution and (2) the single subject of legislation pursuant to the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:
H. R. 235.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:
H. R. 236.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 14, 18, and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BIGGS:
H. R. 237.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which states that Congress has the power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing
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powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Office thereof.'

By Mr. GARAMENDI:
H.R. 256.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. GARAMENDI:
H.R. 256.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California:
H.R. 256.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLOÑ:\nH.R. 256.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution

H.R. 258.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution

H.R. 259.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution

H.R. 260.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution

H.R. 261.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

H.R. 262.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

H.R. 263.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

H.R. 264.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

H.R. 265.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

H.R. 266.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

H.R. 267.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

H.R. 268.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

H.R. 269.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

H.R. 270.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

H.R. 271.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

H.R. 272.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.
H.R. 24: Mr. Finstad, Mr. Fallon, Mr. Moore of Alabama, Mr. Green of Tennessee, Mrs. Spartz, Mrs. Boebert, and Mr. Jackson of Texas.

H.R. 26: Mr. Burlison, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Rouzer, Mr. Hill, Mr. Alford, Mr. Moran, Mr. Van Orden, Mr. Owens, Mr. Yakym, Mrs. Rodgers of Washington, Mr. C. Scott Franklin of Florida, Ms. Hageman, Mr. Norman, Ms. Granger, Mr. Kelly of Mississippi, Mr. Ogle, and Mr. Luttrel.

H.R. 27: Mr. LaHood, Mr. Smith of New Jersey, Mr. Barr, and Mr. Posey.

H.R. 38: Mr. Barr, Mr. Ezeell, and Mr. Zinke.

H.R. 41: Mr. Steube, Ms. Tenney, Mr. Carson, Mr. Kean of New Jersey, and Mr. Golden of Maine.

H.R. 51: Mr. Levin and Mr. Casar.

H.R. 53: Mr. Fallon, Mr. Grottman, Mr. Issa, Mr. Harris, Mr. Cline, Mr. Mast, Mr. Barr, and Mrs. Boebert.

H.R. 59: Mr. Rutherford, Mr. Johnson of South Dakota, Mr. Owens, Mr. LaTurner, and Mr. Jackson of Texas.

H.R. 82: Mr. Higgins of Louisiana, Mr. Johnson of Louisiana, and Mr. Smith of New Jersey.

H.R. 126: Mrs. Miller of Illinois, Mr. Bishop of North Carolina, Mr. Arrington, Mr. Estes, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Fleischmann, Mr. Rosendale, Mr. Posey, Mr. Buck, Mr. Adherolt, Mr. Guest, Mr. Grottman, Mr. Gosar, Mr. Bost, Mr. Mast, and Mr. Cline.

H.R. 134: Mr. Rutherford.

H.R. 139: Mr. Fallon.

H.R. 142: Ms. Scanlon, Mr. Garamendi, and Mr. Lieu.

H.R. 149: Mrs. Boebert.

H.R. 152: Mr. Mast, Mr. Green of Tennessee, Mrs. Boebert, and Mr. Loudermilk.

H.R. 160: Mr. Panetta.

H.R. 165: Mr. Steube and Mr. Mast.

H.R. 162: Ms. Mack, Mr. Johnson of Ohio, Mr. Bost, Mr. Fallon, Mr. Sessions, Mr. Posey, and Mr. Buchanan.

H.R. 194: Mr. Good of Virginia.

H.J. Res. 7: Mr. Bost.

H.J. Res. 8: Mr. Molinaro, Mr. Aderholt, Mr. McClintock, Mr. Pfluger, Mr. Grottman, Mr. Alford, Mr. Walberg, Mr. Gooden of Texas, Mr. Loudermilk, Mr. Allen, Ms. Hageman, and Mr. Williams of New York.

H. Con. Res. 3: Mr. Bacon, Mr. Norman, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Rosendale, Mr. Cline, Mr. Self, Mr. Luttrel, Ms. De La Cruz, Mr. Van Orden, Mrs. Rodgers of Washington, Mr. Burlison, and Mr. Ogle.

H. Con. Res. 4: Mr. Langworthy, Mr. Garbarino, Ms. Tenney, Mr. Joyce of Pennsylvania, Ms. Stefanik, Mrs. Spartz, Ms. Van Duyne, Mr. LaHood, Mr. Kean of New Jersey, Mr. Ezeell, Ms. Malliotakis, Mr. Guthrie, Mr. Finstad, Mrs. Kiggans of Virginia, Mr. Smith of New Jersey, Mr. Barr, and Mr. Rutherford.

H. Con. Res. 5: Mr. Cline.

H. Con. Res. 7: Mr. Levin, Mr. Womack, Mr. Rutherford, Mr. Morelle, Ms. Schakowsky, Mr. Carl, Mr. Bera, and Mr. Lieu.

H. Res. 12: Mrs. Greene of Georgia and Mrs. Spartz.