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House of Representatives

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 McCLINTOCK 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. Calling 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 work 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

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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 turn the page. 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 allow the far left to defund 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 Pennsylvanian 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 rules. The Republican rules 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 continue 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 they 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 against 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 a 95-years-young Walter Raymond Bowers from Jacksonville, Florida.

Walter was born March 16, 1927, in Dayton, Ohio. He moved to Jacksonville, 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.

Walter and Mary both 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 32 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.

□ 1015

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 after birth. 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 became 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 that 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.

Last Monday, 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.

My mom would have never wanted me to stay home and not do my job last week. She was with me all week as the world watched our great Nation debate the future of our Republic.

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

I thank my congressional colleagues for their kind words, sincere thoughts, and prayers over the last week.

I was truly moved 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, Ashtyn, 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).

GO DAWGS

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 affiliated 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 consequence 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 are 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 tens of billions of dollars, spent on people who come here illegally. 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, South America, and 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 property 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 who came 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 glaucoma. 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.

□ 1030

In 2014, he developed the Labor Department's newest program, Customized Recruitment. This program bridges the gap between employers and job seekers.

A committed public servant, statesman, and friend, I thank Mark for his leadership and his hard work.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING JON BURNS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, 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 dear 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 Georgia.

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.

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD

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 storybook 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 Georgia 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 vandalized 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 that we are endowed by our creator with the unalienable right to life.

WATER SUPPLY IN CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, as we have observed, Western States are receiving much welcomed rainfall and snowpack. Indeed, some of the side effects are flooding and there are many mudslides that are affecting communities and transportation corridors.

This is on the heels of short rainfall years for at least the last 3 years. This year, rainfall numbers are good. They are at a pace where they are at their historical average or a little above in some areas. This is historical average long-term over non-drought years.

The last 3 years have seen dire water supplies for many people and allocations for farmers. In 2019, our lakes in California were basically full. You may recall in 2017, in my district, Lake Oroville had the spillway collapse due to lack of maintenance and checking its integrity over the years, but it was plumb full, 101 percent full, in 2017.

Our water projects in California were designed with the idea that they withstand 5 years of drought. With Lake Oroville being full as recently as 2019 and Lake Shasta nearly full as well, how is it that our State water projects and our Central Valley projects which are run by the Bureau of Reclamation—being at these high levels—that Lake Oroville, for example, in 2021, only 2 years after being full, was basically so low on water that for the first time in the history of that lake it did not make hydroelectric power because the water levels were so low.

Lake Shasta, in 2022, an unprecedented cut in water supply, including to its neighbor right there in Shasta County, Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District, received zero allocation because they couldn't deliver enough water to make it worth their while. In over 100 years of the existence of that district, this is the first time that they did not get to irrigate it.

These two 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 State 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?

They are not doing 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 relieving 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 that 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 recharge basins so the subsidence 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 defunds 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.

Our sympathy to the family of magnificent Lynette ''Diamond'' Hardaway of North Carolina, and we welcome Delegate JIM MOYLAN of Guam.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DONALD WILLIAM NOTTOLI

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

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Don Nottoli and celebrate his retirement from the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors after seven terms on the board and a lifetime of service to the Sacramento community.

Don started his public service career in 1977 when he was elected to the Galt High School Board of Trustees. I have had the privilege of working with Don over the years. He is a tireless public servant. All of us get to go to Eagle Scout ceremonies, medal awards, and so forth. Don is at every one of those.

Our community is a much better place because of the service and the representation that we had from Supervisor Don Nottoli.

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 resources are necessary 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.

Families are struggling. 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 challenges 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 working for upstate 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 his two children, Trey and Sydney, are very proud of him, and so am I.

God Bless, guns up, and go west Texas.

□ 1215

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.

(C) DESIGNATION OF LEADERSHIP STAFF MEMBER.—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 sole authority of the Select Committee shall be 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.—

(1) Notwithstanding clause 3(m) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Select Committee is authorized to study the sources and methods of entities described in clause 11(b)(1)(A) of rule X insofar as such study is related to the matters described in subsection (b)(2).

(2) Clause 11(b)(4), clause 11(e), and the first sentence of clause 11(f) of rule X shall apply to the Select Committee.

(3) Except as specified in paragraph (4), the Select Committee shall have the authorities and responsibilities of, and shall be subject to the same limitations and restrictions as, a standing committee of the House, and shall be deemed a committee of the House for all purposes of law or rule.

(4)(A) Rules X and XI shall apply to the Select Committee where not inconsistent with this subsection.

(B) Service on the Select Committee shall not count against the limitations in clause 5(b)(2) of rule X.

(C) Clause 2(d) of rule X shall not apply to the Select Committee.

(D) Clause 2(g)(2)(D) of rule XI shall apply to the Select Committee in the same manner as it applies to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

(d) RECORDS; STAFF; TRAVEL; FUNDING.—

(1) The appointment and the compensation of staff for the Select Committee shall be subject to regulations issued by the Committee on House Administration.

(2)(A) Staff of employing entities of the House or a joint committee may be detailed to the Select Committee to carry out this resolution and shall be deemed to be staff of the Select Committee.

(B) The Select Committee may request the head of any Federal agency to detail, on a nonreimbursable basis, any of the personnel of the agency to the Select Committee.

(3) Section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i)) shall apply with respect to the Select Committee in the same manner as such section applies with respect to a standing committee, except that the selection of any consultant or organization under such section shall be subject to approval by the Speaker.

(e) REPORTING.—The Select Committee may report to the House or any committee from time to time the results of its investigations and studies, together with such detailed findings, policy recommendations, and legislative proposals as it may deem advisable. All such reports shall be submitted to the House by December 31, 2024. All policy recommendations shall be submitted to the relevant standing committees not later than December 31, 2023. The Select Committee shall submit all legislative proposals to the relevant standing committees not later than 30 days after their adoption by the Select Committee.

(f) PUBLICATION.—

(1) The Select Committee shall ensure that reports and proposals prepared in accordance with this subsection shall, upon completion, be made available to the general public in widely accessible formats not later than 30 calendar days following the respective dates for completion set forth in subsection (e).

(2) Any report issued by the Select Committee shall be issued in unclassified form but may include a classified annex, a law enforcement-sensitive annex, or both.

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.

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) each will control 30 minutes.

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 behest 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 make this 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 respond to the counterintelligence 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.

Chinese spy 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 the developing world, and 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 critical. 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 domestic institutions 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 stand 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 draw attention to 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 economic, technological, 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 turning 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, President Trump repeatedly mislabeled COVID with racist language. Such rhetoric coincided with spikes in hate-based acts of violence and discrimination against people of Chinese or Asian origin across the country. This language has no place on this committee or anywhere in Congress.

Second, this committee should not seek to focus solely on military solutions. Yes, China's military modernization 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 adjudicated. They apply to every person in every country and territory on Earth.

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 power of its 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 bipartisan consensus that the era of trusting Communist China is over.

I listened to my friend, 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?

□ 1230

It dawned on me in that moment in time there was an opportunity that instead of American Government not speaking with one voice—these different messages we have been providing—perhaps we could 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 buying today and the stealing of our intellectual property.

But 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. It is my hope, 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 farmland is protected?

All of that would be brought up within this committee. The threat is too great for us to bicker 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 it.

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 those, then you come to me because that is not the intent, and that is not what I will put up with.

I sat with the new leader of the Democrats, and I told him early on what this committee will be and whom we will be putting on it. We want serious lawmakers. This isn't for somebody to go in and be viral because they want to make some point. This is to work together as one Congress where one of our greatest challenges for the future is that no longer will we be dependent upon China and no longer will we be as vulnerable.

America will be stronger and dependent upon ourselves, and we will do this together. That is what the American people expect.

I want this committee to last beyond who is in the majority and never ever be decided that this is a partisan committee.

The gentleman has my commitment.

If at any time I feel that whoever the leader on the other side puts on this committee was trying to make it partisan, I told him I would approach him.

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 be partisan. We want 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 the future to come.

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.

Our subcommittee had 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, of understanding the origins of COVID, where it came 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 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 on it, we laid it 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 yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER), who is the chairman-designate of the proposed select committee.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 11, 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 Anthony 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 successive 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 industrial 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 thanks to a complex Chinese money laundering network.

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 coordinated 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 to just 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. It is up to us 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 along 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 of ensuring this stays bipartisan. 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 MIKE MCCAUL 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, I urge 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 with cloned 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 world. In fact, in previous 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.

□ 1245

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 leverage 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 a select committee on China 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 whole world to fully understand.

In addition, we will develop concrete solutions for how we can better position the United States to prevail in this competition and ensure that the 21st century is 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 mass 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 each year through 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 may not be 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 companies 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

create the select committee and for naming Congressman MIKE GALLAGHER chairman of the committee. He has been a fighter on the front lines and will do a great job leading this committee.

I will close with this. Every President from Harry Truman to George H.W. Bush understood the need to confront the threat from the Soviet Union and defend the United States and our principles against communism. Because of that bipartisan commitment and because of the strength and vitality of the American system, our Nation was victorious in the Cold War. We must come together again as Republicans and Democrats to confront this new threat.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy in permitting me to speak on this.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor much encouraged, having heard the words of the Speaker and the chairman-designate, Mr. GALLAGHER.

I was one of those people 25 years ago who was part of the consensus that we could engage Communist China into the world economy. I had an opportunity to travel extensively, meeting with the Chinese leadership at that time. They were saying the right things. I think some of them were sincere. It was an encouraging opportunity.

But over the course of the last 20 years, it has taken a wrong turn. We have watched the Chinese play a cynical game. They have not lived up to their obligations under the WTO. We don't have a procurement provision, for example. We have watched repression increase, and we have watched this current regime in unprecedented ways exploit opportunities.

I have legislation to close the de minimis loophole that allows China to import 2 million packages a day, untaxed and uninspected, and Heaven only knows in terms of forced labor, in terms of illicit goods that are coming in here. I have had legislation to try to change that.

I think this select committee can be a forum to bring us together on a nonpartisan basis to take areas in which there is profound agreement, like closing the de minimis loophole.

I commend the Speaker and the leadership moving forward. I look forward to working with Democratic leadership on this, to use it as an opportunity to get us back on track, particularly given the insidious nature of the current regime's forced labor.

We have made great progress legislatively to give us more tools. I think there is a potential for this select committee to build on it and make more progress, and I look forward to working with them. I will support the proposal.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ZINKE), my very good friend.

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 officials to the Pacific Islands 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 worst perpetrator of illegal, 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.

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. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the 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 the intensifying great power competition between the United States and China.

The formation of the select committee is the Republicans' response to the China question. However, I do remain skeptical of the true intentions behind the formation of this committee, and I hope my Republican colleagues can approach this topic from a position of strength, not weakness, xenophobia, or fear.

A specific focus on strategic competition with China could be meaningful if the committee's work remains constructive, but I question why the work of this proposed select committee could not have been done through the current committees of jurisdiction.

With that being said, to be constructive, the committee should consider perspectives beyond the military domain that include the political, economic, military, cultural, and diplomatic implications of a potential U.S. response.

Republican leadership should also select Members to sit on this committee who are serious minded about the risks posed by China and not merely anti-China hawks yearning to isolate China through military might.

Most importantly, it is my hope that the committee will consider meaningful ways that we can promote a rules-based international order that the United States has spent considerable time and resources building up in the post-World War II era. We must leverage our soft-power tools and work cooperatively with our allies and other democratically aligned partners across the globe to achieve our ends.

Finally, unity at home is just as important to demonstrating the strength of our Nation as it is to project our strength abroad. Our strength is derived from our unwavering commitment to our democratic values, the cohesion of our alliances, the intellect and innovation of our people, and the shared prosperity of every American. What grants us currency with the world is our credibility at home as a reliable partner that provides a robust social safety net for its people and consistently supports democratic ideals.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my Republican colleagues to take this opportunity seriously. It is not simply enough to demonize and dehumanize our adversaries to align the world behind our democratic ideals. Let's use this select committee to show that we have unity and strength to outrival China and that we are good for more than just fearful rhetoric.

Until this point, my Republican colleagues have shown an unwillingness to avoid the vitriol that undermines a constructive approach to China, so I plan to vote ''no'' on this resolution. However, I hope we can move forward in a constructive way.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE), my very good friend.

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 to the consolidation 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 American 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 gentlewoman 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.

□ 1300

We certainly saw this with Trump's labeling of COVID as the ''China virus'' resulting in 11,500 hate 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, look at the 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 in the region.

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, our trade deficits going 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 doesn't invade 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 of 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.

Sadly, this has been manifested by rampant intellectual property theft, overburdening developing nations through corrupt credit practices, manipulation of the facts in Wuhan, punishment of religious thought, and the collapse of the rule of law in one of the freest places on the globe in Hong Kong, and perhaps most offensively, genocide of the Uyghurs and others.

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 select 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. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

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 70 percent of certain pesticides, and three Chinese companies account for 96 percent of the world's dry cargo. The recent COVID pandemic underlined 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. MCGOVERN. 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 to 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. WALTZ), my very good friend and distinguished veteran in service to the United States and now in the Congress of the United States.

Mr. WALTZ. Mr. Speaker, we know the activities of the Chinese Communist Party under the leadership of Xi, the worst genocide since World War II, not just according to the United States—multiple administrations of the United States, but also according to the U.N.—Hong Kong, South China Sea, threats to India, and threats to Taiwan. Xi is telling his country to prepare for war.

Here at home, we have the cornering of critical supply chains and dependencies on China that is being done deliberately as they steal their way to the top through our intellectual property, spying on the Federal Reserve, flooding our key institutions, including academia, with money, buying up farmland.

Mr. Speaker, this is a whole-of-government, whole-of-society challenge that we have never before faced in American history. That is why we need a committee like this. That is why we need a committee that spans all of these jurisdictions, and we certainly need the leadership of my good friend and colleague, Representative MIKE GALLAGHER.

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

□ 1315

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 businessowner, 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 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 human rights 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, and certainly in the business and community on foreign policy establishment, bought into what James Mann rightfully called ''the China fantasy.''

In other words, if you just trade more with a dictatorship, somehow they will matriculate into a democracy.

That fantasy has been shown to be demonstrably naive, 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, as we saw with the Olympics, were standing right by Beijing and the CCP and Xi Jinping and wouldn't utter a word, including Coca-Cola and others, about the terrible killing of the Uyghurs and the use of forced labor camps.

We have stood by as the Chinese embassy and the Ministry of State Security have harassed people of Chinese heritage and nationality living lawfully in the United States.

We have not done all that we can do for the people of Hong Kong, Tibet, and the Uyghur people in the autonomous region.

But today, thankfully, we are turning a page, and I applaud our Speaker for pushing hard for this select committee. Hopefully, it will make a difference.

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

Mr. Speaker, this select committee has the potential to do some substantive work, and there is a bipartisan group here in this House that for years has been focused on holding China accountable and upholding a high standard of human rights.

I don't want to close without acknowledging the incredible leadership of Speaker PELOSI in all of this. I traveled with Speaker PELOSI to China a few years back, and she insisted that we visit Tibet, a place that was blocked off for congressional visits for many years.

She refused to take no for an answer, and we went to Tibet. Under her leadership, the legislation that I mentioned at the beginning of my remarks was passed, the most consequential legislation to hold China accountable passed in this Congress in history.

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 GALLAGHER 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 say that because we 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 committee 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 we should all get behind, and I hope that it is successful. I hope that it is bipartisan. I hope that it is all that we have been 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. COLE. 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 them 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 2019 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 is on adoption of the resolution.

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

Mr. COLE. 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 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:

H. RES. 12

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

select subcommittee as its chair. Any vacancy in the select subcommittee shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(B) Each member appointed to the select subcommittee shall be treated as though a member of the Committee on the Judiciary for purposes of the select subcommittee.

(b) INVESTIGATIVE FUNCTIONS AND AUTHORITY.—

(1) INVESTIGATIVE FUNCTIONS.—The select subcommittee is authorized and directed 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 such interim reports as it may deem necessary) regarding—

(A) the expansive role of article II authority vested in the executive branch to collect information on or 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 improper, unconstitutional, or unethical activities were engaged in by the executive branch or private sector against citizens of the United States;

(C) how executive branch agencies collect, compile, analyze, use, or disseminate information about 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; and

(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(l) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(c) PROCEDURE.—

(1) 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 chair of 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(j)(2)(B) of such rule XI; and

(ii) staff of the select subcommittee to question a witness as though pursuant to clause 2(j)(2)(C) of such rule XI.

(B) The Committee on the Judiciary (or the chair of the Committee on the Judiciary, if acting in accordance with clause 2(m)(3)(A)(i) of rule XI) 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.

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) each will control 30 minutes.

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. 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.

This select subcommittee 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 we have witnessed abuses of 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 studying and reporting on the executive branch's authority to collect information on or otherwise investigate citizens of the United States.

It will investigate how executive branch agencies work with and exchange information with the private sector and other government agencies to facilitate action against American citizens; how executive branch agencies collect, compile, analyze, use, or disseminate information about citizens of the United States; the laws, programs, and activities of the executive branch as they relate to the collection of information on citizens of the United States; and any other issues related to the violation of the civil liberties of American citizens.

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 into the 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.

□ 1330

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, defunding the police, and settling 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 defund 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 law, undermine 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 who asked for pardons from the former President, 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 ability to investigate and to try to shut down criminal investigations that they 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 wrongdoings. What is wrong with these people?

On top of all of that, this subcommittee expects to use the power of the subpoena to advance their 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 doesn't reduce the deficit, 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 power and partisan politics over the needs of the American people. Just like Senator McCarthy looking for imaginary communists, they are going to find QAnon 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 creating. 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 former Democrat chair of the Intelligence Committee pressured Twitter to censor a journalist. You have got to be kidding me.

This is about the First Amendment, something you guys used to care about. 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 assemble, 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 Member of Congress to redress your grievances because NANCY PELOSI wouldn't let you in.

Freedom of the press. I just told you what the head of the Intel Committee tried 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, oh, 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 clinic, and telling the guy who was harassing your son to knock it off you are going to have the FBI raid your home; but the protests that went on at Supreme Court Justices' homes in the aftermath of the leak of the Dobbs opinion, oh, no problem there. Americans are sick and tired of it.

We don't want to go after anyone. We just want it to stop. We want to respect

the First Amendment to the Constitution that the greatest country in the world has. That is what this committee is all about, and that is what we are going to focus on. That is what we are going to do.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article from The Hill titled: ''January 6 panel names six House GOP lawmakers who asked for pardons.''

[From The Hill, June 23, 2022]

JAN. 6 PANEL NAMES SIX HOUSE GOP LAWMAKERS WHO ASKED FOR PARDONS

(By Mychael Schnell and Emily Brooks)

The Jan. 6 committee investigating the attack on the Capitol revealed Thursday that at least a half-dozen Republican lawmakers asked for presidential pardons 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 seeking pardons.

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

Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R–Ill.), 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. ''Every Congressman and Senator who voted to reject the electoral vote submission of Arizona and Pennsylvania.''

A spokesman for Brooks forwarded a full copy of the email, which included a concern that Democrats would ''abuse America's judicial system by targeting numerous Republicans with sham charges.''

''The email request says it all. There was a concern Democrats would abuse the judicial system by prosecuting and jailing Republicans who acted pursuant to their Constitutional or statutory duties under 3 USC 15,'' Brooks said in a statement. ''Fortunately, with time passage, more rational forces took over and no one was persecuted for performing 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 were meant to be ''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 meeting with 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.

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 Miss Hutchinson, a 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 ''malicious, despicable and unfit for a U.S. Congressional hearing.''

''I requested pardons for brave U.S. service members and military contractors who were railroaded by the justice system due to superiors playing politics, as well as a civilian leader who was also wronged by a despicable injustice,'' Gohmert said. ''These requests were all far prior to, and completely unrelated to January 6.''

Biggs also objected to the committee's assertion that he sought a parton, writing in a statement Thursday night that Hutchinson ''is mistaken.''

He said the testimony of Hutchinson discussing the pardons was ''deceptively edited to make it appear as if I personally asked for her a presidential pardon.''

Greene, Hutchinson said, did not contact her directly, but she said she had heard that Greene contacted the White House Counsel's office for a pardon.

Greene pushed back on the testimony in a tweet, but did not directly deny asking for a pardon.

''Saying 'I heard' means you don't know,'' Greene said. ''Spreading gossip and lies is exactly what the January 6th Witch Hunt Committee is all about.''

Eric Herschmann, a former Trump White House attorney, was also asked by the Jan. 6 committee in a deposition if Gaetz was seeking a pardon.

''Believe so,'' Herschmann said in a video presented at the hearing. ''The general tone was, 'we may get prosecuted because we were defensive of, you know, the President's positions on these things.''

Herschmann said that Gaetz's pardon request was ''for any and all things,'' and that Gaetz had mentioned former President Richard Nixon's pardon. Herschmann said that Nixon's pardon was not that broad.

Trump adviser John McEntee also testified that Gaetz told him he asked Meadows for a pardon.

A spokesman for Gaetz responded to testimony about the pardon request by pointing to a tweet from Gaetz calling the committee a ''political sideshow.''

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, there were at least six House Members who sought pardons from President Trump following the January 6 insurrection, and many of them would like to be on this committee, we are told.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

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 have the first of their many 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 fake elector schemes to overturn the 2020 Presidential election, insurrectionists facing trials for 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 to 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 rather than 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 their positions of power. The other side of the aisle 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 board tasked 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 oppress 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 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]

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 to create cover for former President Donald Trump's hoarding of secret records.

The disclosures Monday about the material found last fall 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 against 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 classified documents—some bearing the highest designations of government secrecy—taken from Trump's resort at Mar-a-Lago after a court-approved search by FBI agents. And Biden appears to be cooperating 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 afterward as political victimization, sought to capitalize on Biden's discomfort over the documents in a post on his Truth Social network.

''When 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 Speaker Kevin McCarthy 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 marking ''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 huge sensitivity of the 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, any distinctions in the severity of the Biden and Trump documents will be obliterated in the political torrent that is already stirring and with conservative media likely to draw false equivalencies between the two cases.

The report offers an immediate opening for Trump as he seeks to dodge culpability for his behavior and claims he's a victim of persecution to thwart his 2024 campaign. The former president is a master at turning one incident into an entire campaign narrative—as he did with former Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton's emails in 2016.

And the report will give the new Republican House majority fresh material as it unleashes a multi-front investigative assault against the White House. And while there so far appear to be clear differences in the magnitude of the cases, the report—first carried by CBS—about Biden will inevitably raise political pressure on Special Counsel Jack Smith's investigation into Trump's retention of classified material.

Smith is also now reaching even deeper into the ex-president's inner circle by subpoenaing his former lawyer Rudy Giuliani as part of a federal grand jury probe looking at Trump's fund raising, among other issues related to the 2020 election.

GARLAND'S DILEMMA

The Biden document disclosures will also deepen the already intense political headache facing Garland as he contemplates an eventual decision on whether to charge Trump, whose status as an ex-president and an active 2024 candidate carries huge political implications.

Garland insists that investigations will go where the evidence and the law demands as he seeks to stress the independence of the Justice Department—which was perpetually in question when Trump was president. But now, inevitably and however the Biden vice presidential documents issue is resolved, a decision to charge Trump over the classified documents case but not to take the same action against Biden would incite political uproar among conservatives who would be sure to allege double standards.

The former president's legal team issued a temperate response to the Biden report that sought to broaden openings that could shield their client. One lawyer said that the Biden story was ''indicative of a larger problem with trying to keep track of classified information in the offices of the President and the VP. There is an over classification problem, and at the end of an Administration, things get packed up and moved and it's hard to keep track.''

The lawyer also warned that if Trump were to be charged, his representatives would demand all communications between the National Archives and Biden's team on the matter.

THE BIDEN DISCOVERY

Biden's attorneys found the documents in a locked closet in a private office in Washington the future president used as a visiting professor with the University of Pennsylvania. The White House Counsel's office notified the National Archives and officials at the agency took control of the documents the morning after they were found. Biden wasn't aware the documents were in the office until his personal lawyers reported their existence and remains in the dark of the content of the material, a source familiar with the matter told CNN. Federal office holders are required by law to relinquish official documents and classified documents when their government service ends.

Unlike in Trump's case, Biden doesn't appear to have tried to assert ownership of the files, to obstruct their handover or make outlandish claims that he had previously declassified them based on an undisclosed private thought.

Trump is being investigated by Smith to see whether he infringed the Espionage Act by keeping classified material and for the possible obstruction of justice.

REPUBLICANS MUSTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE ASSAULT ON WHITE HOUSE

The Biden documents case will intensify the showdown already emerging between the new Republican House majority and the White House.

For two years, Trump has been rocked by blow-after-blow from congressional and criminal probes over his conduct during and after his presidency that have nudged him ever closer to accountability.

But help is on the way.

The new Republican majority in the House is ready to unleash a vast investigative machine apparently designed to discredit and distract from Trump's alleged transgressions and to wound Biden's nascent reelection race.

Such an offensive was always coming, given the extent to which the deeply conservative House GOP remains in thrall to the

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 win his speakership last week. And it represents a fast-expanding challenge for the White House, which has already spent months preparing its defense.

A new House rules 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 conservative 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 public deserves more clarity.

This includes the chaotic management of the withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, the way that Covid–19 mitigation funds were spent or the administration's unwillingness at least until recently to consider the rising numbers of migrants crossing the southern border as 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 over 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 militants 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 not satisfied 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.

The Ohio lawmaker 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 after the revelations about documents found in Biden's office, Republicans know 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 expectations of 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 chose to ignore that.

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

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Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make something crystal clear: The primary purpose of this special subcommittee is to interfere with the special counsel's ongoing investigation into 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 indicated 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: the Republican committee to obstruct justice.

The American people don't want that. They don't want yet 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 and the Department of Justice, including the FBI, are 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 and 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 task that 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—alias British actor Sacha Baron Cohen—told risque 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 velvet-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 venom is going 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 faced 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 emails to the ''big guy''.

Hunter joined the board of the Ukrainian gas company Burisma in 2014, around the time that Joe Biden, then vice-president, was helping conduct Barack Obama's foreign policy with Ukraine. Hunter earned more than $50,000 a month over a five-year period.

Senate Republicans claim that his appointment may have posed a conflict of interest. Last year more than 30 of them called for a prosecutor to be given special counsel authority to carry out an investigation into alleged ''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.

House Republicans and their staff have been studying messages and financial transactions found on a now notorious laptop that

belonged to Hunter. Having gained the majority, they now have the power to issue congressional subpoenas to foreign entities that did business with him.

Richard Painter, who was chief White House ethics lawyer in the George W Bush administration, believes that Joe Biden should have recused himself from matters relating to Ukraine. ''The Ukrainian gas 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 missing link 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 Ukrainian gas company. 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 cashing in on his father's name as he pursues a career as an artist. He is represented by the 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 who bid on or bought it.

Bergès said in an lnstagram post in November that Republicans on the House oversight 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 scrutinize a profession then scrutinize all of them and every position that children 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 suspicion 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 secrecy was a bad idea.''

Fox News and other rightwing media may relish an opportunity to demonise the president's son ahead of an election in 2024. But Republicans are in danger of overreach. 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 fizzled.

David Brock, a veteran political operative and president of Facts First USA, a new group set up to combat the congressional investigations, said: ''What we're going to see in the hearings is a recycling and a rehash of old discredited stories and conspiracy theories. They're doing it for political reasons. [Congressman] Jim Jordan is on the record saying that the investigations are all about 2024 and electing Donald Trump again. That's his own words, not mine.''

Hunter's 2021 memoir, Beautiful Things, generated sympathy in some quarters for a man who 50 years ago last month survived a car crash that killed his mother and sister and who has been honest about his struggle with alcoholism and drug abuse. Brock believes that a fresh Republican onslaught will backfire.

''Going after someone who has an addiction and has had mental health issues is sadistic politics and I don't think it will work with the American people,'' he added. ''There are so many people who have family members who've suffered in one way or another and will identify with Hunter; they won't identify with the attackers. The Hunter-hating narrative has been out there for three years. It hasn't really gained any traction outside of the far right and I don't think it will.''

Republicans could also lose credibility by focusing on Hunter and other retreads of the past instead of advancing a plan for domestic issues such as inflation, jobs and taxes.

Kurt Bardella, a Democratic strategist who served as a senior adviser for Republicans on the House oversight committee from 2009 to 2013, said: ''For all the talk about Republicans saying they want to return to regular order, they want to have better stewardship over taxpayer dollars, they want to act more responsibly with legislative power, well, OK, but how does investigating Hunter Biden do anything to help the American people?''

[From Politico, July 19, 2022]

IT'S NOT JUST HUNTER BIDEN: PREPARE FOR A 2023 PACKED WITH HOUSE GOP INVESTIGATIONS

(By Jordain Carney)

House Republicans are planning to bombard Joe Biden's administration with investigations next year, from Hunter Biden to the border to the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.

As the GOP prepares for a likely takeover of the chamber next year, committee chairs-in-waiting have laid out a lengthy list of oversight goals that goes beyond Biden's White House—including Democrats' formation of the Jan. 6 select committee. But the party's highest-profile targets are those with the potential to politically bruise the president ahead of 2024: his son's business dealings, Afghanistan, the origins of the coronavirus, inflation causes and the U.S.–Mexico border.

Months before the midterms, Republican lawmakers are already working behind the scenes to divvy up which committee gets which piece of the investigative action next year. That includes talks with Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy and other conference leaders, plus member-on-member discussions.

''I've been really impressed with leadership—both from [Rep.] Jim [Jordan], from [Rep.] Jamie Comer, from Kevin's office—in already starting to talk about that,'' said Rep. Kelly Armstrong (R–N.D.).

Republicans view executive-branch oversight as a significant piece of their 2023 agenda, driven in part by the reality that divided government would leave no path for most of their legislative priorities. Investigations also give the House GOP high-profile chances to lob subpoenas and tough questions at Biden officials heading into 2024, when it hopes to take the Senate and White House too.

Republicans still need to nail down the timelines and other specifics for each investigation, but they've already taken initial steps such as document preservation requests. Those have already hit the Jan. 6 panel, administration officials involved in the Afghanistan withdrawal and Twitter over its legally challenged sale to Elon Musk, among other recipients.

After four years in the House minority, Republicans have a backlogged wish list of topics to dig into. Their real challenge, GOP lawmakers predict, won't be finding areas to investigate but rather winnowing down their focus.

''It's not something where we're having to drum up, 'OK, what are we going to do?' It's more of a limiting factor of, we only have 50 weeks a year,'' said Rep. Michael Cloud (R–Texas).

Much of the investigative churn will spin out of the Oversight Committee, a legislative octopus with jurisdictional tentacles that can reach into several parts of the administration.

Jamie Comer, the Kentucky Republican who is expected to lead the panel should Republicans take the majority, said that he was trying to lay the groundwork now so that he and his members could start right away in January.

Republicans on the committee plan to hold high-profile probes into Hunter Biden's dealings with overseas clients, but they also want to hone in on eliminating wasteful government spending in an effort to align the panel with the GOP's broader agenda. They're also expected to probe the infant formula shortage and the Food and Drug Administration, which regulates formula.

''We're going to spend a lot of time in the first three, four months having investigation hearings and then we're going to be very active in the subcommittee process, focused on substantive waste, fraud and abuse type issues. . . . I'm going to bring the Oversight Committee back to what its original intent was,'' Comer said in a brief interview.

Comer said he's already having conversations with the expected chairs of other committees to avoid duplicating investigative work, adding that his panel is ''so broad, sometimes you ruffle feathers with other chairs.''

The U.S.–Mexico border, for example, is expected to be a hot point for several committees.

Jim Jordan, the Ohio Republican and House Freedom Caucus founding member who is line to chair the Judiciary Committee, immediately pointed to Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and the border as a focus for his panel in 2023.

''We certainly need to dig into more of the terrible way Mayorkas has run—I think intentionally—the way he has the Department of Homeland Security,'' Jordan said.

Jordan pointed to two potential areas he wanted to probe: border enforcement and the creation of a DHS ''disinformation'' board, which the department subsequently paused after a flood of GOP criticism. Jordan has also been communicating with Senate Republicans who are brainstorming their own investigative plans if they are able to flip the upper chamber this fall.

Republicans are still sorting out how they will probe the Jan. 6 panel and Capitol security, an area of particular interest within the conference. Illinois Rep. Rodney Davis, the current top Republican on the House Administration Committee, had pledged to use his panel as an investigative springboard into the select committee next year but recently lost his primary to Rep. Mary Miller (R–111.).

And some conservatives in the conference are pushing for investigations into debunked 2020 election fraud claims, underscoring how embedded former President Donald Trump's baseless claims to that end have become within the party.

Beyond the headline-grabbing probes, Republicans are prepping more bread-and-butter oversight hearings that will give nearly every committee a pathway to dive into government agencies.

''Oversight is going to be significant. And we'll have significant oversight of the Securities and Exchange Commission, as well as the [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau],'' said Rep. Patrick McHenry (R–N.C.), who hopes to chair the Financial Services Committee.

And while Republicans' legislative dreams would have to clear a high bar—given 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 decades-long legislative white whale, as a springboard 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 if they don't 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 Republican strategy. 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, legislative action 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), my 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. Despite 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 money to shell organizations and repeatedly attempt to destroy the American West. In many cases, they want to wipe out the American cowboy completely, remove public access to our lands, and turn Montana into a national park. They want to control our land and our lifestyle.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD two parts of a five-part series of investigative articles by the Capital Research Center titled: ''Arabella's Long War: Web of 'Pop-Up' Groups'' and ''Arabella's Long War: 'Keep it in the Ground.' ''

[From the Capital Research Center, Nov. 12, 2021]

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 network in politics. 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-ups 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 corner. What makes Arabella so powerful is how these ''pop-ups'' deceive individuals into believing they represent genuine local grassroots interests, such as one pop-up in Alaska created to oppose creation of the Pebble Mine run from Arabella's plush offices in DC.

Arabella's network is extraordinarily well-funded. In 2019 alone, the four ''sisters'' reported total revenues exceeding $730 million and poured out $648 million. Between the network's creation in 2006 and its Form 990 filing for 2019 (the latest available), Arabella's empire has received more than $3 billion and spent nearly $2.5 billion. Most of that funding was directed to the network's flagship 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the New Venture Fund, whose largest known donors include the Gates, Ford, Hewlett, Packard, and Buffett Foundations.

Beginning in 2017, Arabella turned its guns on Trump's Department of the Interior using a pop-up pair: Western Values Project (WVP) and its ''sister,'' Western Values Project Action (WVPA).

According to their websites, WVP and WVPA were created in 2013 in Helena, Montana, to expose corrupt corporate lobbyists preying on public lands in the West. In reality, WVP is run by the 501(c)(3) New Venture Fund while WVPA is run by the 501(c)(4) Sixteen Thirty Fund, Arabella's in-house lobbying shop. Whatever staff the groups actually have would have been paid by one of Arabella's nonprofits or possibly by Arabella Advisors itself; we'll likely never know. But in its 2018 Form 990, New Venture Fund revealed that it is the ''paymaster'' for Sixteen Thirty Fund (which reported zero employees on its own 2018 Form 990) and ''pays the salary and immediately invoices Sixteen Thirty Fund, which reimburses the full amount.''

It's common for groups to use both kinds of nonprofit to maximize their ability to lobby through the 501(c)(4) and raise non-lobbying funds through the 501(c)(3), since donors may deduct donations to the 501(c)(3) from their taxes. But Arabella takes that tactic to another level, using pop-up fronts for its nonprofits that can take advantage of the New Venture and Sixteen Thirty Fund's respective tax advantages without disclosing their relationship to one another. Donations to WVP and WVPA in fact benefitted the Arabella-run nonprofits behind the projects, as an archived version of WVP's website from October 2019 reveals.

Until late 2019 the website for WVP and WVPA revealed a handful of staffers, including Chris Saeger, ex-communications director for the Montana Democratic Party and former Service Employees International Union (SEIU) staffer; Jayson O'Neill, a Democratic staffer for Montana's legislature and Gov. Brian Schweitzer (D); and Yetta Stein, a staffer for the left-wing political action committee End Citizens United and staffer for the 2018 reelection campaign Sen. Jon Tester (D–MT). The archived website also showed a small advisory board consisting of:

Kjersten Forseth, a former chief of state for Colorado State Senate Democrats, former director of the left-wing strategy group ProgressNow Colorado, political director for the Colorado AFL–CIO, and chief political strategist for Rocky Mountain Voter Outreach, a Denver-based get-out-the-vote and ballot initiative firm.

Kent Salazar, an environmental health manager for Albuquerque, New Mexico, former New Mexico State game commissioner 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 Caroline Ciccone, who in 2019 was executive director of the New Venture Fund pop-up and anti-Trump ''oversight'' group Restore Public Trust. Ciccone is a former communications director for the Democratic National Committee (DNC), Obama appointee to the U.S. Small Business Administration, and Democratic strategist. From 2014 to 2017 she led Americans United for Change (AUFC), a top left-wing strategy group whose national field director Scott Foval was recorded in late 2016 by undercover journalists from Project Veritas bragging that AUFC had paid mentally ill and homeless people to instigate violence at Trump campaign rallies. ''We know that Trump's people will [tend to]

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 AUFC who directed parts of a vast network of advocacy groups all aligned in support of Hillary Clinton's presidential bid. This led to speculation that his firm helped Clinton's campaign violate collusion laws. Foval described Creamer's role in the scandal as the ''kingpin'' who is ''diabolical, and I love him for it.'' Within days of the video's release Creamer resigned, and Foval was fired.

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 Oversight, 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 these three Arabella ''pop-ups'' were being rolled into a new organization: Accountable.US, itself a former New Venture Fund project fully established as an independent nonprofit sometime later that year, headed by president Kyle Herrig 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 enmeshed in a deeply networked, highly coordinated cabal of professional activists—and it always was.

[From the Capital Research Center, Nov. 12, 2021]

ARABELLA'S LONG WAR: ''KEEP IT IN THE GROUND''—HOW LEFTIST ''DARK MONEY'' ACTIVISTS BROUGHT DOWN TRUMP'S SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR AND PAVED THE WAY FOR BIDEN'S RADICAL ENVIRONMENTALISTS

(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 the most extreme environmentalist regime 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.'' Since then we've continued to uncover this now $730 million activist empire, tracing its shadowy campaigns on everything from abortion on demand to packing the Supreme Court to its war on the Trump administration.

This report on the Arabella network examines the professional Left's years-long campaign to undermine President Donald Trump's Department of the Interior, laying the groundwork for the Biden administration's crusade against oil and the most radical environmentalist policies in American history .

''KEEP IT IN THE GROUND''

The U.S. Department of the Interior is primarily responsible for managing roughly 450 million acres of federal land and conservation of their natural resources, most critically the nation's vast reserves of oil and natural gas. It manages hundreds of dams and reservoirs, regulates drilling on 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 diplomacy and national security. Under President Trump that included international wildlife trafficking bans, 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, halting all drilling on public land 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, 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 presidents and their activist allies for years. President Barack Obama canceled lease sales in the Artic and Atlantic offshore sites and banned the leasing of coal on federal lands. Phasing down ''extraction 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. I agree with that.'' 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 2020 primary. Ever the pawn of the radical Left, on January 27, 2021—exactly one week after his inauguration—President Biden indefinitely suspended development of new oil and gas wells on public lands, which the left-leaning San Francisco Chronicle cheered as ''a first step to halting the granting of federal drilling leases permanently.''

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 independence the United States struggled to achieve in recent years. This means higher gasoline and household electricity prices, an estimated $11.3 billion in lost federal royalties and rental fees, and the destruction of hundreds of thousands of jobs across the economy.

With a single executive order, the Left could advance its crusade to ''keep it in the ground'' for years in the name of global warming. The stakes couldn't be higher—all that stood in its way was the Trump administration.

Mr. ZINKE. We all knew politics was ugly, but we need to investigate and uncover corruption no matter where it lies. It is time to bring light to the shadows of the deep state and do our duty.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this critical piece of oversight investigations.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, here is a curious thing. The legislation that creates this select committee, we were first given this on January 2. Then, it changed on January 6, and we didn't get that until 10 p.m. on January 6, after 13 Speaker votes.

What changed in this legislation—and this is really curious—is they expanded the select committee's authority to investigate ongoing criminal investigations—think about that—in an unprecedented way.

I don't know how many votes that got, but clearly, it was important enough because we went through 13 Speaker votes before we got to this.

The reason why this is included, and I am sad to say this, is because we have Members in this Chamber who themselves may be subjects of investigation. There are ongoing investigations against the former President. So, this was added.

Why was this added? To try to frustrate those investigations.

When we talk about corruption, when we talk about undermining the rule of 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 subcommittee 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 nonsense.

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 to 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 investigate the investigators committee, 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, who are so important in the fight 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

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 the form of a body blow to our national security.

Vote ''no'' on this ill-considered measure. This is no Church Committee, not a bipartisan effort to reform government, but 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 it. 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 ex-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 from that investigation. It is 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.

□ 1400

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. BISHOP).

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 tacit. It is aware only of 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 continuously 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. Concealment 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 reveal the rot within our 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.

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 fair?

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 to undermine that through investigations of the FBI and Central 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, 2021.

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—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 not 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 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 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 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 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 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 operations?

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 F.B.I. AND 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 Eiden 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 on what it calls 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 said Mr. McCarthy had committed to giving 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 Eiden 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 F.B.I.," 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 any issue related to civil liberties or to examine 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 slated 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. Late last year, as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee when his party was still in the minority, he oversaw a 1,000-page staff report that claimed that the F.B.I. had "spied on President Trump's campaign and ridiculed conservative Americans" and that the "rot within the F.B.I. festers in and proceeds from Washington."

The resolution appears to give him authority to subpoena the Justice Department for information about the special counsel inquiry into Mr. Trump's attempts to overturn the 2020 election and his handling of classified documents, along with other politically charged matters like an open tax investigation into President Biden's son, Hunter Biden.

The text of the resolution would also grant Mr. Jordan's panel the power to receive the same highly classified information that intelligence agencies make available to their

oversight 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 members of their party they think 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 that panel.

It is not clear, for example, whether Republican leaders would select hard-right members, such as Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene, the Georgia Republican 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 first ballot, as did Mr. Jordan.

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

In an interview on ABC's ''This Week'' on Sunday, Representative Scott Perry, Republican of Pennsylvania, 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 in that inquiry, 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 promote conspiracy theories. In his 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 been, you know, labeling Scott Smith a domestic terrorist.''

In fact, no agency labeled Mr. Smith a domestic terrorist. Mr. Smith, whose daughter was sexually assaulted in a high school bathroom in Virginia, was arrested after he lunged at someone at a school board meeting during a tense and chaotic debate over bathroom policy for transgender students. He was convicted of disorderly conduct.

In September 2021, the National School Boards 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 amid a long list of examples, with a footnote to a news account of the meeting that mentioned the arrest in passing but without details like his daughter's assault. The letter also said acts of violence and threats against school officials could be classified as ''equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes,'' and asked for federal help.

A few days later, Attorney General Merrick B. Garland issued a memorandum directing U.S. attorneys and the F.B.I. to convene meetings across the country with local officials to discuss ''strategies for addressing threats'' against school officials and teachers. His memo did not call anyone a domestic terrorist, and it specifically distinguished spirited debate, which it stressed was constitutionally protected, from acts of violence and threats.

But voices on the right have made Mr. Smith a cause cèlébre, falsely telling their viewers and readers that the Biden-era Justice Department and the F.B.I. consider parents who disagree with liberal school board policies to be domestic terrorists.

The subcommittee investigation proposed by Mr. Jordan is just one of a number of inquiries House Republicans plan to approve this week.

Included in a separate rules package scheduled to come up for a vote on Monday is a wide-ranging inquiry into the coronavirus pandemic, including the origins of the virus, so-called gain-of-function research, the production of vaccines and the conduct of Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, Mr. Biden's former chief medical adviser, whom Republicans have pledged to haul before them for questioning.

Republicans are also planning to form a special committee to investigate the Chinese government's ''economic, technological and security progress, and its competition with the United States.''

Both the China investigation and the investigation into law enforcement are scheduled for a vote on Tuesday.

Mr. COLE. 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 the 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 the way, 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 stand up and to continue their jobs 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 that there 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 committees. 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 Speakership 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, I must 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 upheld—protected free speech be upheld. Not libel, 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. McGOVERN. 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. Speaker, I will, again, urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' against the creation of that committee because this is unprecedented. This is a witch hunt. This is a committee designed basically to protect those who, quite frankly, are under investigation right now.

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

□ 1415

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.

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 can vote any time to 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 13 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, 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 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 been enduring every day when 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 investigation 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 hemmed in.

I implore my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to populate 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 was 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 it will create.

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 1½ 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 Subcommittee 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 time to thoroughly investigate our Government 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 promised.

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 that would investigate probes into the Jan. 6, 2021, attack at 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 email 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 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 on Intelligence 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 which now Speaker MCCARTHY admitted was an attempt to try to take down Secretary Clinton.

But here is the deal, and here is what it is all about: There are six on the other side of the aisle who asked for a pardon from President Trump. They did his dirty work, but Trump left them hanging. He did not give them a pardon. So now they are effectively trying to pardon themselves with the creation of this select committee.

This is unconscionable. It is so blatant. Again, the changes that were made to give them the ability to pardon themselves were done after the 13th Speaker vote in the dead of night to try to win their votes over.

This is not the way this Congress should run. This is not the way Republicans or Democrats, or any majority should behave. People should be ashamed of themselves that this is in the rules package and that this is what my friends are pushing right now.

We are better than this. We should not be going down this road. My friends said that they want to combat inflation and that they want to make the lives of the American people better. Let's focus on those things. Let's focus on areas that actually improve the lives of the American people. This is a colossal waste of time. But even worse, it is to me the epitome of what corruption is all about.

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 creating 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 Subcommittee 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 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 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 would 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 operations.

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 please present herself in the well.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN 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. WEBER 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
Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bost
Boyle (PA)
Brecheen
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budzinski
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cicilline
Ciscomani
Clark (MA)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crawford
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Foster
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, Vicente
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green (TX)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
Jacobs
James
Jeffries
Johnson (LA)

Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
Lamborn
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Mann
Manning
Massie
Mast
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCollum
McCormick
McGarvey
McGovern
McHenry
Menendez
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy
Napolitano
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Nickel
Norcross
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Omar
Owens
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Perry
Peters
Pettersen
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Posey
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Santos
Scalise
Scanlon
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Strong
Swalwell
Sykes
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Vasquez
Veasey
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—65

Balint
Barragán
Bonamici
Bowman
Brown
Bush
Carter (LA)
Casar
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Clarke (NY)
Connolly
Crockett
Davis (IL)
DeGette
DeSaulnier
Escobar
Evans
Frankel, Lois
Frost
García (IL)
Garcia, Robert
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Lee (CA)
Lee (PA)
Lieu
Lofgren
Matsui
Meeks
Meng
Moore (WI)
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Ocasio-Cortez
Pallone
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Ross
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Scott (VA)
Stansbury
Takano
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Underwood
Vargas
Velázquez
Watson Coleman
Williams (GA)

NOT VOTING—4

Crenshaw
Donalds
Foushee
LaMalfa

□ 1620

Ms. CLARKE of New York changed her vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. VEASEY, SWALWELL, Ms. ADAMS, Messrs. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, CLEAVER, HIGGINS of New York, and CORREA changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. DONALDS. Mr. Speaker, I was delayed on my way to the floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 26, H. Res. 11.

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE 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 (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, 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.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 221, nays 211, not voting 2, as follows:

[Roll No. 27]

YEAS—221

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McHenry
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Santos
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—211

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bush
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez

Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—2

Crenshaw
Foushee

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1629

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1630

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. Arrington, 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. McHenry, 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.

Ms. STEFANIK (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 15

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.—Mr. David Scott of Georgia.

(2) COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.—Ms. DeLauro.

(3) COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES.—Mr. Smith of Washington.

(4) COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET.—Mr. Boyle of Pennsylvania.

(5) COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE.—Mr. Scott of Virginia.

(6) COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE.—Mr. Pallone.

(7) COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES.—Ms. Waters.

(8) COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.—Mr. Meeks.

(9) COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY.—Mr. Thompson of Mississippi.

(10) COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.—Mr. Nadler.

(11) COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES.—Mr. Grijalva.

(12) COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.—Mr. Raskin.

(13) COMMITTEE ON RULES.—Mr. McGovern.

(14) COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY.—Ms. Lofgren.

(15) COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS.—Ms. Velázquez.

(16) COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE.—Mr. Larsen of Washington.

(17) COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Mr. Takano.

(18) COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.—Mr. Neal.

Mr. AGUILAR (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give thanks to the men and women who keep us safe.

Yesterday was National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, a day to be grateful for the officers who have dedicated their lives to serving their communities.

Created in 2015, this day allows us to voice our appreciation to law enforcement officers for their service.

National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day has become increasingly more important in light of the growing negativity towards officers.

According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund there are more than 800,000 sworn law enforcement officers serving in the United States. Law enforcement officers don't enter this career because of the recognition that they may receive, they choose this career because of their passion for public service.

These officers knowingly put their lives on the line every day because they know protecting and preventing crime creates a safer world.

A simple way to show our law enforcement we care is to thank a police officer. So, if you see a police officer, please thank a police officer.

Mr. Speaker, I want to give my most sincere thanks to the men and women of law enforcement for the dedication, sacrifice, and commitment to the rule of law they display every day.

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 $72 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. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. 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 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 it was under 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.

□ 1645

READY TO GET TO WORK

(Ms. SCHOLTEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I believe this Congress has a chance to do what is right.

I am an unflinching optimist, and I believe that we can come together to make our communities safer and more just for all.

As the first woman and mother in history to represent my district in Congress, and as an attorney that has worked for our Nation's top law enforcement agency, keeping our communities safe is a top priority of mine because violence, of all kinds, takes a massive toll on the people we represent.

Just 2 years ago, a friend of mine, Romito Jones, was shot and killed in our neighborhood on the southeast side of Grand Rapids. He was a father of five and a friend to my family.

Just last month, a recently elected member of the Muskegon Heights school board, Julius Muhammad, was shot and killed in his home. He was a dad and a public servant. He was loved and admired by his community.

Today I honor their lives as I strive for safer communities for all.

We must come together to enact commonsense reforms to keep our neighborhoods safe, support our law enforcement, and support fair and equitable enforcement of the law.

I am ready to get to work, and I invite all of my colleagues to join me.

CONGRATULATING THE TCU HORNED FROGS

(Ms. GRANGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Texas Congressional District 12's very own TCU Horned Frogs on a memorable college football season.

Even though last night's result was not the one we were hoping for, the Horned Frogs proved to be the ultimate underdog story of the year.

TCU was the smallest college or university to ever play a national championship in the modern era. They have shown great resolve and resiliency this year, which has inspired people across the Nation.

I congratulate Coach Sonny Dykes, quarterback Max Duggan, and all the staff and players on a tremendous season. The whole Fort Worth community is incredibly proud of TCU's accomplishments.

It is a privilege to represent Texas Christian University in Congress, and it was a pleasure to cheer on the team all season. Go Frogs.

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 negativism 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 all that they could for America.

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 civil 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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON RULES,
Washington, DC, January 10, 2023.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER KEVIN MCCARTHY: Pursuant to section 3(j) and section 3(k) of H. Res. 5, 118th Congress, I hereby submit simultaneously the regulations 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, nongovernmental 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 question a witness per round. One of the committee counsel shall be designated by the chair and the other by the ranking minority member per round.

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 first, and the member(s) or committee counsel designated by the ranking minority member shall ask questions second.

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 Committee may take any appropriate disciplinary action. The witness may refuse to answer a question only to preserve a privilege. When the witness has refused to answer a question 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. If 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 must be made within three days, in writing, 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.

8. The Committee chair 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, or amendments to the 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 reasons for each 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.

9. The individual administering the oath, if other than a member, shall certify 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 transcript shall be filed, together with any electronic recording, with the clerk of the committee in Washington, DC. Depositions shall be considered to have been taken in Washington, DC, as well as the location actually taken once filed there with the clerk of 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.

10. The chair and ranking minority member shall consult regarding the release of deposition testimony, transcripts, or recordings, and portions thereof. If either objects in writing to a proposed release of a deposition testimony, transcript, or recording, or a portion thereof, the matter shall be promptly referred to the committee for resolution.

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 REMOTE PARTICIPATION OF COMMITTEE WITNESSES

Except as provided by section 3(j) of H. Res. 5, 118th Congress and these regulations, witnesses 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 extreme hardship or other exceptional circumstances, the chair may allow the witness to participate remotely, with written approval from the Majority Leader.

The official record of the committee proceeding shall include a letter from the chair detailing the necessity of allowing the witness to participate remotely, a description of why the witness could not participate in person, why such testimony was necessary for purposes of fulfilling Congress's Article I responsibility, and a letter from the Majority Leader approving of such remote participation.

The witness must agree to remain on the platform until excused by the chair. The witness should conduct a pre-hearing technology test with staff designated by the chair, to ensure the witness will have sufficient internet connection during the hearing, and to minimize the possibility of any technical issues.

No witness appearing in a governmental capacity may participate remotely. No witness testifying before a committee in response to a subpoena is permitted to testify remotely, unless both the chair of the committee and the Majority Leader authorize such testimony in writing and printed in the Congressional Record.

Any text based or private messaging function in the software platform used to facilitate the participation of a remote witness must be disabled unless it is used to provide technical support to the witness, which may be excluded from the public video stream and will not be considered a committee record.

Only witnesses approved for remote participation may have participatory access on the software platform.

Committees may only utilize a software platform certified by the Chief Administrative Officer. The Chief Administrative Officer should inform committees, including the ranking minority members, 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 should include a list of hearings conducted with remote participation.

A witness participating remotely in a committee proceeding shall be visible onscreen within the software platform until excused by the chair. The witness shall disclose to the chair and ranking member any additional individual(s) present off screen.

Witness counsel shall be allowed access on the remote proceeding software platform if they are not in the physical presence of the witness. It is recommended that counsel facilitate a separate secure line of communication with the witness. A witness may not be unmuted by any other individual and should be allowed to use such 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. for morning-hour debate.

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, Office of Head Start, Administration for Children and Families, 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-AC90) 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 Education and the Workforce.

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 24-678, ''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 24-692, ''Criminal Justice Involvement Reduction 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–6. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-693, ''Foreclosure Moratorium and Homeowner Assistance Fund Coordination 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–7. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-694, ''Advisory Neighborhood Commission Pandemic Provisions Extension 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–8. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-695, ''CRIAC Assistance Fund 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–9. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-707, ''11th Street Bridge Project Temporary 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 24-708, ''Small Business Relief Grant Program 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–11. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-647, ''Public Health Emergency Credit Alert Extension 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 24-648, ''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 24-649, ''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 24-637, ''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–15. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-638, ''Partition of Real Property 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 24-639, ''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 24-640, ''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 24-641, ''Expanding Fee Waivers for 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 24-643, ''Paternity Establishment 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 24-644, ''Enhancing Reproductive Health Protections Amendment Act 2022'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC–21. 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–22. 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–23. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-654, ''Uniform Power of Attorney 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–24. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-655, ''Zero Waste Plastic Products Recycling 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–25. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 64-642, ''Elections Modernization 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–26. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-657, ''Expanding Supports for Crime Victims 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–27. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-680, ''New Markets Tax Credit Real Property Tax Exemption 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–28. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-681, ''206 Elm St., N.W., Real Property Tax Abatement 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–29. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-682, ''Whitman-Walker Entities at St. Elizabeths Tax Rebate 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–30. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Acts 24-683, ''Limited Equity Cooperative Advisory Council Act of 2022'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC–31. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-684, ''Limited Equity Cooperative Property Tax Assistance 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–32. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-685, ''Inspector General Oversight Consistency 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–33. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-686, ''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.

EC–34. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting

D.C. Act 24-687, ''Period Equity Righting an Injustice of District Residents (PERIOD) Act of 2022'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC–35. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-688, ''State Small Business Credit Initiative Venture Capital Program Grant-Making Establishment 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–36. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-689, ''Condominium Warranty Claims Clarification 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–37. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-690, ''UDC Leased Property Tax Abatement 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–38. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-691, ''Performing Arts Promotion Tax Rebate Clarification 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–39. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-658, ''Expedited Adoption Eligibility 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–40. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-659, ''Bedbug Control Act of 2022'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC–41. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-660, ''Engineering Licensure 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–42. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-661, ''Business Records Efficiency Act of 2022'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC–43. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-700, ''Initiative 82 — District of Columbia Tip Credit Elimination Act of 2022'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC–44. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-662, ''Sign Regulations 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–45. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-663, ''Protecting Security-Sensitive Dashboard Data 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–46. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-664, ''Attorney General Civil Rights Enforcement 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–47. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-665, ''River East at Grandview Condominiums Property Tax Exemption 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–48. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-666, ''Housing Authority Accountability 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–49. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-701, ''Salary Adjustment 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–50. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-704, ''Omnibus Uniform Athlete Agent and College Athlete Name, Image, or Likeness 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–51. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-705, ''Access to Advanced Placement Tests Act of 2022'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC–52. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-706, ''Automatic Voter Registration Expansion 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–53. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-720, ''Medical Examiner Records Privacy 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–54. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, U.S. House of Representatives, transmitting the Statement of Disbursements of the House of Representatives covering the period October 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 (H. Doc. No. 118—5); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

EC–55. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Management, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report of the corrected disclosure Forms 990-T on the Tax Exempt Organization Search page on IRS.gov; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 230. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Lyndon Baines Johnson, the 36th President of the United States whose visionary leadership secured passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965, Social Security Amendments Act (Medicare) of 1965, Civil Rights Act of 1964, Higher Education Act of 1965, and Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BABIN (for himself, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, and Mr. SANTOS):

H.R. 231. A bill to prohibit Federal funds from being provided to an institution of 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. 232. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to prioritize veterans court treatment programs that ensure equal access 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 Statute to codify the defense of qualified immunity in the case of any action under section 1979, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BERGMAN (for himself, Mr. ALLRED, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. ELLZEY, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. BACON, and Mr. MAST):

H.R. 234. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a burial allowance for certain veterans who die at home while in receipt of hospice care furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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 fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 238. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize the residential substance use disorder treatment program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BROWNLEY (for herself, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 239. A bill to amend the Help 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 fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CALVERT (for himself, Mr. WALTZ, and Mr. GROTHMAN):

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 governance, 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. DOGGETT, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. TITUS):

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. DOGGETT, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KILMER, Ms. MATSUI, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 244. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the exclusion of Medicare coverage 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 Energy and Commerce, 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 the lesser prairie chicken 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 awards 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. BOST):

H.R. 250. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to make certain projects and activities eligible for financial assistance under 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. LATURNER, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. HUIZENGA, 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 GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN (for herself, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, 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 assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN:

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 GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN (for herself, Ms. PLASKETT, and Mr. PETERS):

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 GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN (for herself, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. SABLAN):

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 GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN (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 GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN (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 Committees on Foreign Affairs, 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 Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN (for herself, Ms. PLASKETT, and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS):

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 Committees on Small Business, and Financial Services, 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 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 establish a Federal regulatory budget and to impose cost controls on that budget, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, the Judiciary, Oversight and Accountability, and Small Business, 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. MCCLINTOCK, 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. LATURNER, Mr. STEWART, Mr. LATTA, Ms. TENNEY, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia):

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. MALLIOTAKIS:

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 the Judiciary.

By Mr. MAST (for himself, Mr. PERRY, Mrs. HINSON, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. OWENS, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. GUEST, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. GIMENEZ, Ms. TENNEY, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. WOMACK, Mrs. BOEBERT, and Mr. FINSTAD):

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 Ms. NORTON:

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):

H.R. 269. A bill to authorize an additional district judgeship for the district of Idaho; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SIMPSON (for himself and Mr. FULCHER):

H.R. 270. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for the appointment of additional Federal circuit judges, to divide the Ninth Judicial Circuit of the United States into two judicial circuits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PHILLIPS (for himself, Mr. CROW, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. TITUS, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LIEU, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. CARSON, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. MENG, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. NEGUSE, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia):

H.J. Res. 14. A joint resolution amending title 36, United States Code, to direct the President to issue an annual proclamation establishing Democracy Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H. Res. 14. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H. Res. 15. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. COLLINS, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CLYDE, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. MCCORMICK, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia):

H. Res. 16. A resolution congratulating the University of Georgia Bulldogs football team for winning the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association College Football National Championship; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GAETZ:

H. Res. 17. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require the Speaker to allow the Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network (C-SPAN) to broadcast and record the floor proceedings of the House, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia (for himself, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. PERRY, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, and Mr. CLOUD):

H. Res. 18. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to prohibit the introduction or consideration of certain legislation that authorizes or makes appropriations of funds for a Federal program not previously authorized or funded, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on Ethics, 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. KHANNA:

H. Res. 19. A resolution acknowledging the role of the United States in El Salvador's civil war and urging increased United States support for strengthening civil society, human rights protections, and for humanitarian and development assistance for El Salvador; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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 Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H. Res. 20. A resolution expressing support for designation of September 2023 as ''Gospel Music Heritage Month'' and honoring gospel music for its valuable and longstanding contributions to the culture of the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 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. BABIN:

H.R. 231.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 232.

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 1, 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, specifically clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mr. BERGMAN:

H.R. 234.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

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 1 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 1, 14, 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 1, Section 8

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 238.

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 1, Section 8, Clause 1, 3, & 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

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 1, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, 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:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 242.

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 1, Section 8, Clauses 3, 8, & 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 243.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 244.

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. 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 1, 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 1, Section 8, Clause 3

To regulate Commerce with Foreign Nations, and among the several states, and with Indian tribes.

By Mr. ESTES:

H.R. 247.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations the territory or other property belonging to the United States.

By Mr. ESTES:

H.R. 248.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

Provides Congress with the power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the Territory and other Property belonging to the US.

By Mr. FLEISCHMANN:

H.R. 249.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18, which states the Congress hall have the power ''to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing

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. 250.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, Clause 3, and Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 251.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California:

H.R. 252.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 5

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN:

H.R. 253.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section I of the U.S. Constitution

''All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives.''

Article I, Section 18, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

Congress shall have the power . . . ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution of the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN:

H.R. 254.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section I of the U.S. Constitution

''All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives.''

Article I, Section 18, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

Congress shall have the power . . . ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution of the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN:

H.R. 255.

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, which provide as follows:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; [. . .]- And

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN:

H.R. 256.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution, which provide as follows:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States;

[and . . .]

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN:

H.R. 257.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution, which provide as follows:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States;

[and . . .]

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN:

H.R. 258.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution

''All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.''

Article I. Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

Congress shall have the power . . . ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution

''The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.''

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN:

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, which provide as follows:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States., [. . .]- And

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia:

H.R. 260.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia:

H.R. 261.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia:

H.R. 262.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HUIZENGA:

H.R. 263.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:

H.R. 264.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 265.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 6

The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 266.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

[The Congress shall have Power . . .] To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. MAST:

H.R. 267.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 268.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 269.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 270.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. PHILLIPS:

H.J. Res. 14.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, Congress has the power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 7: Mr. NORMAN, Mr. ALLEN, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. OGLES, and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.

H.R. 21: Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. BACON, and Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 22: Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. MOLINARO, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. HUNT, Mr. BACON, Mr. MORAN, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. CLINE, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

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. OGLES, and Mr. LUTTRELL.

H.R. 27: Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BARR, and Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 38: Mr. BARR, Mr. Ezell, 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. GROTHMAN, 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. 128: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. ESTES, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BUCK, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. GUEST, Mr. GROTHMAN, 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. 151: Mrs. BOEBERT.

H.R. 152: Mr. MAST, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mrs. BOEBERT, and Mr. LOUDERMILK.

H.R. 160: Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 174: Mrs. BOEBERT.

H.R. 185: Mr. STEUBE and Mr. MAST.

H.R. 192: Ms. MACE, 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. GROTHMAN, 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. LUTTRELL, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. BURLISON, and Mr. OGLES.

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. EZELL, 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.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023 *No. 8*

Senate

(Legislative day of Tuesday, January 3, 2023)

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Parliamentarian will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The Parliamentarian read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 10, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CARDIN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECESS UNTIL FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2023, AT 1:30 P.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 1:30 p.m. on Friday, January 13, 2023.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10 and 31 seconds a.m., stands in recess until Friday, January 13, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF CHERYL KIMBALL

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Cheryl Kimball and her service to Virginia's First District and the Nation.

Prior to joining my office, Cheryl spent over a decade working on Capitol Hill.

She came to D.C. in 1988 to work for Senator Bennett Johnston from her home state of Louisiana. In the subsequent years, she worked for the Senate Commerce Committee and Senate Committee on Foreign Relations as well as Congressman John Mica from Florida.

Cheryl joined my Stafford office in July 2016 as a District Representative and served in that role until December 2022. She contributed tremendously to providing the best constituent service in the Commonwealth and the Nation, helping countless constituents with their problems. She also effectively represented myself, my team, and my work throughout the Fredericksburg region and the First District. Her work has been invaluable.

I would like to thank Cheryl for her contributions and dedicated service over the last 6 years. Overall, she has nearly 20 years of federal service. She has been a key member of my district office team, and I wish her the best as she enters her well-deserved retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Cheryl Kimball for her service to Virginia's First District and the Nation. May God bless Cheryl in whatever she decides to do next.

INTRODUCTION OF CLEAN WATER SRF PARITY ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce the "Clean Water SRF Parity Act," with Congressman MIKE BOST (R–IL).

This legislation would make nonprofit cooperatives and publicly regulated utilities operating wastewater treatment plants eligible under the Clean Water Act's State Revolving (Loan) Funds. These same entities are already eligible under the Safe Drinking Water Act's State Revolving (Loan) Funds and, by extension, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) revolving loan fund.

For 2022, California's State Water Resources Control Board awarded $2.7 billion for drinking water and wastewater treatment projects. According to most recent Clean Watersheds Needs Survey, California needs an estimated $26.2 billion in federal, state, and local investment for wastewater treatment, wastewater recycling, and stormwater pollution prevention infrastructure over the next 20 years. This includes an estimated $24.4 billion needed to modernize aging water infrastructure across the state.

Under the federal Clean Water Act, each state capitalizes its own State Revolving (Loan) Fund to provide public financing and grants for wastewater, water reuse, stormwater, and surface water pollution reduction projects to keep our nation's waterways clean. Since this public financing is paid back with interest to help recapitalize each State's State Revolving (Loan) Funds, there is no net cost to American taxpayers.

Our bill restricts eligibility for publicly regulated utilities to the amounts greater than the $1,638,826,000 appropriated for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program in fiscal years 2020 and 2021. That way, we ensure that this new eligibility for nonprofit cooperatives and publicly regulated utilities does not come at the cost of municipally owned utilities and public projects under the program.

As a senior member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which authorizes all Clean Water Act programs, I strongly support increased federal funding for the State Revolving Fund program. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58), of which I am an original cosponsor, provided more than $11.7 billion in new federal funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds nationwide.

With enactment of the "Clean Water SRF Parity Act," I expect the National Association of Water Companies, Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities, Utility Workers Union of America (AFL–CIO), and American Public Works Association to advocate for increased federal funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds each year.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members of the House to cosponsor this bipartisan, noncontroversial bill.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM "BILL" HAROLD PRESTAGE

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to William "Bill" Harold Prestage of Clinton, North Carolina, to honor all that he has done to benefit North Carolina and our great nation.

Bill was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan on June 15, 1935, to Richard and Lorraine Prestage. Bill graduated from Lakeview High School in Battle Creek, Michigan in 1955 and later attended Western Michigan University. In 1960, Bill, his wife, and their kids moved to South Carolina so Bill could start his new job selling Master Mix feeds for Central Soya. Despite having no agriculture experience, Bill quickly proved to be a natural salesman and was awarded Central Soya's coveted "Wildcat" sales award. Bill then moved to North Carolina to service a larger sales area, which led to him meeting Otis Carroll who owned a feed mill. Bill and Mr. Carroll became friends and eventually became partners in what became known as Carroll's Foods. Carroll's Foods was a huge success as it revolutionized the turkey and hog industry by adapting new techniques that would lead to the concept that we now call vertical integration.

After Otis Carroll passed away in 1981, Bill sold his share in the business to the Carroll family. In 1983, Bill and his family started Prestage Farms in Harrells, North Carolina with 22 employees and 18 contract growers. Bill and his team were able to expand his newly found family business to become 1 of the largest family-owned and family-operated animal protein production companies in the nation. Currently, the Prestage family of companies has 5 divisions across 7 different states with 3 processing plants and provides employment to nearly 2,500 people and holds contracts with over 450 family farms. 5 of Bill's grandchildren have joined the company and are learning the ropes of the business from Bill and Marsha's 3 brilliant sons.

Bill had a deep appreciation for all his employees and contract growers that he got to know throughout his life, and he always made sure they were recognized for all their hard work. These individuals served as the foundation of the business and helped make Prestage Farms what it is today.

Bill was inducted into the North Carolina Poultry federation Hall of Fame in 2003 and into the North Carolina Pork Council Hall of Fame in 2005. In addition, Bill chaired the North Carolina Agricultural Foundation Board, served on the Vet Med Foundation Board and served as president of the National Turkey Federation.

Bill and Marsha were both recognized with the Menscer Cup, which is North Carolina State University Foundation's highest award for philanthropy, dedication and leadership. Bill and Marsha were recognized with this. prestigious award after donating millions of dollars to North Carolina State University, which would go towards supporting research, teaching, and other programs provided by the university.

Bill had a love for the outdoors and had a passion for promoting conservation efforts. Some of his hobbies included upland bird hunting, boating, and fishing. Bill married to his caring and loving wife and business partner, Marsha, for 68 years. Bill and Marsha had 3 sons, Ronald, Scott, and John Prestage. Bill was known as "Poppy" to his 9 grandchildren, Kate Prestage Poplin, Zach Prestage, Max Prestage, Billy Prestage, Stephanie Prestage, Dr. Kay I in Prestage, Ben Prestage, Bill Prestage, and Vanna Prestage; and 3 great-grandchildren Charlotte and Claire Poplin, and Marsha Prestage.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the incredible life of Mr. William "Bill" Harold

Prestage and the tremendous legacy he leaves behind.

RECOGNIZING GARY LEE DILLAHUNTY

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful nation and the Citizens of the Twenty-Fourth District of Texas, the 2022 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Gary Lee Dillahunty, Sergeant, United States Marine Corps, of Southlake, Texas for the honorable service he performed while in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

ML Dillahunty enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1968, serving as a Motor Transport Marine during the Vietnam War, billeted as the staff driver for 3 different general officers during his tenure in Vietnam. His decorations include the Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal.

The selflessness Mr. Dillahunty demonstrated in the U.S. Marine Corps continues with his service to community. He has worked as a general contractor for most of his life and extended his professional knowledge towards helping many in his community with projects around their homes and helping many build their dream home.

Mr. Dillahunty's service is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Marine Corps and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. ALFREDO TREVIÑO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Dr. Alfredo Treviño, who passed away on December 25, 2022.

A native of Laredo, Texas, a doctor, a veteran, and a community leader, Dr. Treviño led a remarkable life. After completing medical school at the University of Texas Medical Branch Galveston, Dr. Treviño joined the U.S. Air Force as a Major and completed his internship and residency at Lackland Air Force Base, during which time he treated veterans of the Vietnam War.

He moved back to Laredo in 1978 and opened the Treviño Eye Clinic, where he would go on to practice for 43 years. He cared for indigent patients and provided services to local clergy and the Sacred Heart Children's Home. An active member of the Laredo Daybreak Rotary, he attained a perfect attendance record at meetings over 36 years.

Having established a successful medical practice, Dr. Treviño would go on to discover one of the great loves of his life: tennis. He was an accomplished player, and he shared his love of the game with Laredoans of all ages. The City of Laredo honored him in 2011 with ''Doc T Day'' after he became the first Hispanic President of the United States Tennis Association Texas. The Laredo Independent School District and Martin High School named its newly renovated tennis courts after Dr. Treviño and his loving wife and partner of nearly 54 years, Tina. She shares her husband's love for the game and commitment to growing the sport in South Texas.

I consider myself profoundly lucky to have known Dr. Treviño. He touched the lives of countless South Texans, and he will be truly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. While Dr. Treviño is no longer with us, his legacy will live on in all those whose lives he touched.

EXPLANATION REGARDING COSPONSORING A BILL

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's appropriate for me to republish my statement of March 11, 2019 on the meaning of cosponsoring legislation. Much of that statement was a republication of my statement of September 29, 2010, as I've maintained a consistent policy on this issue. The following is a republication of my statement of March 11, 2019.

''Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, September 29, 2010 stated for the RECORD:

'Madam Speaker, I wish to clarify that when I cosponsor a bill, it does not necessarily mean that I agree with every part of it. At a minimum, my cosponsorship indicates that I support moving the bill forward through the legislative process, including being marked up in committee, and if sent to the floor by the relevant committee(s), then subject to consideration and amendment on the floor.'

Let me reiterate that 2010 statement and provide additional background. I believe in the legislative process. I believe bills are improved during committee mark-ups and by consideration of amendments on the floor. The effect of cosponsoring a bill is to signal to the relevant committee chair(s) that I believe the bill should be marked-up in committee, a process that may well improve the bill (and in some cases may make the bill worse). When I decide to cosponsor a bill after it has completed the committee process, I do signal to the Speaker and Rules Committee that I believe the bill should be considered on the floor, and almost always under an open rule.''

RECOGNIZING THE 2022 UGA FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2022 University of Georgia Football team on their outstanding season and most importantly their victory last night at the College Football Playoff National Championship.

Head Coach Kirby Smart and his remarkable student athletes represented the University—and the State of Georgia—incredibly by pulling off an undefeated season this school year.

This is the Bulldogs' second consecutive title, as they continue to excite the college football world with their dominating performance on the field.

Finally, it is a point of pride to note that six student athletes hailing from Middle and Southwest Georgia contributed to this historic season.

Go dawgs.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MRS. CATHY MORGAN RICHARDSON

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mrs. Cathy Morgan Richardson, a beloved pillar of the community in Hamblen County, Tennessee. Cathy passed away on October 28, 2022, after a life of faith and left a legacy of love for her family and her community.

Cathy was born in Morristown, Tennessee, and graduated from Morristown Hamblen High School West. After graduation, she worked in accounting at Laminate Specialty Plastics, then went on to a 30-year career as an employee in the office of Hamblen County's Circuit Court Clerk. She was an election official, a member of the Fraternal Order of Police, and a member of the Hamblen County Republican Party and the Republican Women's Club of Hamblen County.

Cathy was a God-fearing woman who praised the Lord every single day of her life. She was known for making everything fun and adventurous and often was the life of the party at her church events. She loved music and enjoyed hearing her daughter, Kaylan, sing and play the piano. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Morristown and was known for her smile and for encouraging others with love from her heart. She was full of Jesus and full of joy and it was contagious to her family, her friends, and her church. A frequent volunteer, she organized many events for her church and her local Women's Republican club and was nicknamed the Event Planner Extraordinaire. She brought light and laughter to every person she met and in every corner of her existence. She had the gifts of hospitality, decorating, organizing, energizing, and encouraging.

Her legacy of love includes being married to Mike, her husband of 40 years; her daughter, Kaylan, her son, Channing and his wife, Kristen; and her grandchildren Cade, Christian, and Crew.

Mr. Speaker, Cathy Morgan Richardson was a source of joy, faithfulness, and support for many in Morristown, Tennessee and I honor her life and her service to her family, her Lord and Savior, her church, and her community.

RECOGNIZING THE TRANTHAM FAMILY AS ALABAMA'S OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARM FAMILY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Daniel and Carla Trantham and their children, Davis, Sadie, Anna Kate, Sawyer and Callie for being named Alabama's Outstanding Young Farm Family as well as being named the nation's top young farm family during the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention. This is the first time an Alabama Farmers Federation farm family has won this award.

The Tranthams are row crop and cattle farmers who run their own feed operation. They bag and sell over 80 tons of feed and grain on a weekly basis at their storefront in Alexandria and through feed stores.

The Trantham family also sells wheat straw and Bermudagrass hay while improving yields on 1,000 acres of corn, wheat, soybeans and cotton through irrigation and seed selection. Since 2010, Daniel has more than doubled grain storage and tripled his cattle herd.

The family also operates a trucking company where Carla manages payroll.

The Tranthams are members of Leatherwood Baptist Church. Daniel is the local Young Farmers chair and serves on the Alabama Farmers Federation State Soybean Committee. Carla serves on the local Women's Leadership Committee.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this young family on these 2 great honors. Congratulations to the Tranthams.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT GENERAL STEVEN ROGER RUDDER, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS (RETIRED)

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Marine who has served our great nation for over 38 years. From a Cobra Pilot to a General Officer leading the Marine Corps largest operational command, Marine Forces Pacific, Lieutenant General Steven Rudder has made a significant impact on the Marine Corps. He has flown attack helicopters in combat and commanded Marine Aircraft Group (MAG) 26, and also was in charge of the Legislative Affairs office for the Marine Corps. During his time with the Legislative Affairs office, he was responsible for ensuring the U.S. Congress had the most up to date information on all Marine Corps ground and air programs.

He commanded the 1st Marine Air Wing in Japan with Wing deployments to Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, and Australia. He also served as the planning officer at the United States Indo-Pacific Command where he led operational planning and further strengthened relationships with our Western Pacific partners and allies.

As the Deputy Commandant of the Marine Corps for Aviation, he aggressively transitioned the F–35B aircraft program to include oversight of the historic F–35B deployment on the HMS *Queen Elizabeth*. Additionally, Lieutenant General Rudder completed the MV–22 and H–1 aircraft transitions and increased the readiness of Marine Corps Fighter force to 80 percent.

Lieutenant General Rudder finished his career by commanding Marine Forces Pacific, the largest Marine Corps command with over 80,000 Marines. Under his command, the Marine Forces Pacific reestablished a significant program with the Philippines and entered into several trilateral agreements with Japan and Australia. Lieutenant General Rudder would go on to chair the 20 nation Pacific Amphibious Leaders Symposium with his Japanese counterpart. He was a key figure in the reestablishment of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Marine Corps Air Group.

Ashore or afloat, Lieutenant General Rudder has insured our Marines were ready to fight on behalf of our nation, and on behalf of our nation's commitments to our allies and partners. For his incredible leadership, Lieutenant General Rudder was awarded the Japanese Order of the Rising Sun by former Minister of Defense Nobuo Kishi. He was also awarded the Guksun Medal, which is also called the Order of National Security Merit, signed by South Korean President Yoon Suk-Yeol. It was personally awarded by the ROK Commandant and signifies the impact Lieutenant General Rudder has made in the defense of the Pacific Theater of Operations.

Lieutenant General Rudder's awards include the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal with 1 bronze oak leaf cluster, the Distinguished Flying Cross with Combat ''V'' Device, the Defense Superior Medal (2 awards) and the Legion of Merit (2 awards). The Distinguished Flying Cross with Combat ''V'' Device is of particular note, as it is our Nation's highest award for extraordinary aerial achievement and in Lieutenant General Rudder's case, was awarded due to his courage and skill in combat.

I want to note the close ties Lieutenant General Rudder and his family has with my Congressional District (NC–03). They were stationed for about 10 years total in the Jacksonville, North Carolina area. His son, Dean Rudder, graduated from high school there and is a graduate of East Carolina University (ECU) and his daughter, Brittany, attended three schools in my District. Brittany currently resides in Jacksonville, where she has made it her permanent home for the past 12 years.

I would be remiss if I did not emphasize his wife, Holly, and her support of Lieutenant General Rudder's career. She was 100 percent behind him during his entire 38-year career and is a Navy veteran herself, after growing up in an Air Force family living all over the world. Needless to say, many of Lieutenant General Rudder's successes can be attributed directly to Holly's support. I wish both of them all the best as they transition to this new chapter of life. May they have fair winds and following seas. Semper Fidelis.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICARDO MOLINA SR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Ricardo Molina Sr., who passed away on December 29, 2022.

Mr. Molina leaves behind a giant legacy. A native of Laredo, Texas, he was a tireless advocate for education and young people in South Texas. After joining the United ISD Board of Trustees in 1996, Mr. Molina spearheaded efforts to bolster school security, reduce rates of drug use and dependency, and establish the district's dropout recovery program. He was also an advocate of adult education programs in Webb County, believing that learning is a lifelong endeavor.

Mr. Molina's life is a testament to the value of education and hard work. At different times in his life, he worked in oil fields, cotton fields, and machine shops. He identified most with kids from working-class backgrounds, always fighting to ensure they had the very best opportunities in the classroom and beyond. When UISD opened a brand new, state-of-the-art middle school in August 2022, it was only fitting that the new school bear Mr. Molina's name.

As a pillar of our community, Mr. Molina will be missed dearly. My thoughts are with his loved ones, and I pray that they find comfort in the beauty of their memories with him—and in the knowledge that Mr. Molina touched the lives of so many in our community.

NEIL M. LARIMER

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation and the Citizens of the Twenty-Fourth District of Texas, the 2022 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Neil M. Larimer, Colonel, United States Marine Corps, of Southlake, Texas for the honorable service he performed while in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Mr. Larimer was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1956, serving as an artillery officer with the Second and Third Marine Divisions during the Vietnam War. He saw combat while in convoy operations in South Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star with Combat ''V'' device indicating valorous actions in combat and the Purple Heart for injuries sustained in a roadside bomb blast. His other decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross, and Parachutist Badge.

The selflessness Mr. Larimer demonstrated in the U.S. Marine Corps continues with his service to his community. He has volunteered on the Executive Swimming Committee for the Amateur Athletic Union and as a Lector with his local Catholic church.

Mr. Larimer's service is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Marine

Corps and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

HONORING GEORGE PUKENAS, ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George Pukenas, a U.S. Navy veteran who bravely served during World War II, as he celebrates his 100th birthday.

Petty Officer First Class, George Pukenas, proudly answered the call to protect his country on Landing Ship Tank (LST) 991 assigned to the Pacific Theater for over 3 years until his honorable discharge in 1946. George exemplified integrity and resilience even as his unit suffered heavy trials and losses. In grave circumstances they persevered, enduring numerous attacks and even surviving a typhoon in the South China Sea.

Earning 5 battle stars while aboard the LST 991, it was through their unwavering dedication that they successfully completed multiple operations. These efforts were later recognized as George earned honors for his commitment to our nation including the Pacific Theater Ribbon, Good Conduct Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon, Victory Medal, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon.

Not only through his service, but also through the life he built in Roebling, New Jersey, people know George for his commitment to family and community. Starting his career at the John A. Roebling & Sons steel mill, he worked, making submarine nets utilized in WWII amongst other vital materials. Additionally, George used his skills as an accomplished carpenter, to build a home he and his family. He accomplished a great deal through service and work and was still a supportive family man, father of 6 and husband to his beloved late wife of 45 years,

We are proud to have George call New Jersey's 3rd District home, and to have benefitted from his brave contributions to our country. It is undoubtedly true that George Pukenas is a distinguished member of our community whose actions at home and abroad have had a positive ripple effect that will continue to benefit generations to come. As George continues to enjoy hand-carving, and spending time with his family, we wish him many more years of good health and continued happiness.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CAPTAIN THOMAS EDWARDS DAVIS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and remember the life of service of Captain Thomas Edwards Davis. Born in Arkansas, he attended Mississippi College, Tulane University, and Southwestern at Memphis, and entered the United States Navy in July of 1945.

As an Aviation Midshipman, Captain Davis underwent flight training at the Naval Air Station, Ottawa, Iowa; Corpus Christi, Texas; Pensacola and Jacksonville, Florida; and was designated a Naval Aviator in June 1949. He served in Fighter Squadron 173 from August 1948 until released to inactive duty in January 1950.

He was recalled to active duty in June 1950 with Reserve Fighter Squadron 791 and deployed to Korea on the USS *Boxer*. He later served with the Fleet Gunner Unit at El Centro, California as a gunnery instructor from January 1953 to August 1954. He was also a gunnery instructor at the Naval Air Station Barin Field, Alabama, from August 1954 to March 1956.

Captain Davis attended the Air Launched Missile School at the Naval Air Technical Training Center, Jacksonville, FL, after which he served with Fighter Squadron 101 at the Naval Air Station Cecil Field and Key West, FL, until June 1960.

He was a student at the United State Naval Postgraduate School from August 1960 to August 1962. In September 1962, he was transferred to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operation. From September 1964 to August 1965, he was attached to the Staff of Commander Naval Air Force, United States Atlantic Fleet, as Armament Officer, after which he served as Executive Officer and later Commanding Officer of Training Squadron 9 at the Naval Air Station, Meridian, Mississippi until January 1967.

He served as the Carrier Air Traffic Control and Strike Operations Officer while on the USS *Intrepid* deployed in the Tonkin Gulf.

Leaving the *Intrepid* in August 1968 to become a student at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. Earning his Master of Science degree in International Affairs at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

He returned to the Staff of Commander Naval Air Force, United State Atlantic Fleet in July 1969. Captain Davis reported to CF–1 in June 1972 as Commanding Officer and served there until transferred to Naval Air Maintenance Training Group, NAS Memphis, in August 1975.

Captain Davis was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, four awards of the Air Medal, the Navy Unit Commendation, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, the Vietnam Navy Distinguished Service Order and the Navy Commendation Medal. He has also earned the Korean Service Medal, the China Service Medal, the United Nations Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal.

Our Nation is forever in the debt of Captain Davis and his family for his many years of service to our country. He leaves behind a legacy of service to others that has inspired future generations. May his memory be everlasting,

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF BETSY RUSSELL

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the retirement of Betsy Russell, 1 of the most effective and respected reporters in Idaho, from 37 years of remarkable reporting and editing in Idaho politics.

As reported by Clark Corbin, of the Idaho Capital Sun,

Russell started her reporting career early, joining her high school paper and covering her own graduation.

She earned a political science degree from the University of California-Berkeley and a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University.

Russell moved to Idaho in 1986 to cover Boise City Hall for the Idaho Statesman. Over the next 36 years she covered the Idaho Legislature, government and politics for the Statesman, the Spokesman-Review and Idaho Press newspapers. Along the way, she was a part of a team of Spokesman-Review journalists that was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 1993 for their coverage of Randy Weaver and the Ruby Ridge standoff in Boundary County, Idaho.

Her coverage exposed false claims made by Republican and Democratic elected officials from the campaign trail to the floor of the Idaho House of Representatives. Russell's stories led to prison reform and changes in state policy, while her work with the Idaho Press Club and Idahoans for Openness in Government sought to increase transparency in halls of power across the state.

When Russell first arrived at the Idaho Statesman, she covered then-Mayor Dirk Kempthorne and the debate about downtown Boise's redevelopment and an ill-fated proposal to build an indoor shopping mall. Gov. John Evans was nearing the end of his last term in office and Russell got her first taste of covering the Idaho Legislature and the governor's office when Kempthorne would testify at the Statehouse. Russell went on to cover six other Idaho governors closely—Cecil Andrus, Phil Batt, Kempthorne, Jim Risch, Butch Otter and Brad Little.

Russell's career included several highlights.

Russell created and wrote the Eye on Boise blog, first for the Spokesman-Review and later for the Idaho Press. that was a must-read for anyone interested in the Idaho Legislature and state government—including many of the most highest ranking and influential elected leaders in the Gem State.

In 2004, Russell and Dean Miller, a veteran Idaho and Washington newspaper editor, created Idahoans for Open Government, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to openness and compliance with the Idaho Public Records Act and Idaho Open Meetings Law.

Russell's 1997 series investigating Idaho prisons revealed the fact that nearly a quarter of Idaho's prison population was incarcerated for 4 crimes that are not even considered felonies—simple drug possession, drunk driving, driving without a license and writing bad checks—in a majority of states. The series led to a gubernatorial investigation launched by then-Gov. Phil Batt and led to several reforms. In a telephone interview, Russell called her prison series 'probably the most significant story I have covered in my career.'

I thank Betsy for her outstanding service to the citizens of Idaho. All of Idaho is better because of her premier skills and relentless commitment to accuracy. Her remarkable impact in Idaho journalism and politics will never be forgotten. I hope she enjoys her well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING MR. CLAUD ''ROB'' WHEATLY, III

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Claud ''Rob'' Wheatly, III of Wheatly Law Group, to honor his long and illustrious career.

Rob graduated from The Citadel in 1969 and the University of South Carolina School or Law in 1972. He also served in the United States Army, where he obtained the rank of Captain. Rob specializes in property, estate planning, business, corporate, environmental law, and civil trial practice in all State and Federal Courts. During his very successful career, Rob has been the county attorney for Carteret County and is also a member of the Carteret County and North Carolina Bar Associations.

Rob recently reached his 50-year milestone as an attorney in private practice and has served over 30 years as the Carteret County Attorney. Rob began practicing law in 1972 with his father, Claud R. Wheatly Jr., making Rob the third generation of his family to practice law in Carteret County.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring this incredible and noble servant and congratulating Mr. Claud ''Rob'' Wheatly, III on a life of outstanding service to his community.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF DON KELLAHER, SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE SERGEANT AT ARMS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor a constituent from Maryland's Fifth District who has served this institution faithfully for decades: Senior Advisor to the Sergeant at Arms Don Kellaher. He recently retired after spending 45 years in service to the House of Representatives and deserves recognition for all that he has contributed and accomplished in that time.

Don began his long career in 1976 as a staff assistant in the former Office of the Doorkeeper before moving to the Office of the Sergeant at Arms three years later. Throughout his decades in that office, he worked in every division and held important positions, such as Director of Special Events, Director of Police Services, Deputy Sergeant at Arms, and Senior Advisor to the Sergeant at Arms.

Don played a key role in ensuring that this institution could continue to carry out its work For the People. During his tenure in the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, he helped organize 12 presidential inaugurations, ranging from President Carter's in 1977 to President Biden's in 2021. Additionally, Don has participated in the planning of dozens of State of the Union Addresses.

Crucially, he has worked to keep visitors, staff, and Members of the People's House safe. That includes historic figures who have visited our Capitol, such as the Dalai Lama, Pope Francis, Mother Teresa, and Queen Elizabeth II. From anthrax and ricin attacks to murders of U.S. Capitol Police officers and bombings of the Capitol Building, Don has also helped our brave Capitol Police navigate many challenges over the years. Recently, he supported them during the deadly insurrection that gripped our Capitol on January 6, 2021. Everyone who was here that infamous day owes a debt to Don and the others who worked to reestablish order and security on Capitol Hill, as do the American people whose democracy came under attack that day.

Mr. Speaker, Don is truly a guardian of the House of Representatives. We could not fulfill our duty to the American people without Don and numerous other staffers like him who work behind the scenes to make this institution function. He ought to be proud of all he's done for Congress and the country, and I hope he knows how much we appreciate him and his work.

I ask that all my colleagues join me in wishing Don, his wife Antoinette, his children Amanda Walker and Anthony Kellaher, and his grandchildren Rhett Walker and Rosalie and Ainsley Kellaher happiness as he begins his well-earned retirement

HONORING MATTHEW DAVID ANDERSEN

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Director of the Department of Commerce San Diego Office, Mr. Matthew David Andersen.

A dedicated public servant, Mr. Andersen spent 37 years committed to developing U.S. commerce on the world stage. Mr. Andersen served as the Director of the Department of Commerce San Diego Office for 25 years before recently announcing his well-deserved retirement.

Those who had the pleasure to work with Mr. Andersen say that he touched the lives and careers of many and will be dearly missed. A testament to his hard work, Mr. Andersen received the Department of Commerce's Bronze Award for Superior Federal Service in 2015.

Mr. Andersen was an avid sports fan, loved animals, and enjoyed listening to The Beatles. He is survived by his partner, Brooke Palmer, his sister, brother-in-law, nieces, and nephews.

On behalf of the residents of California's 52nd Congressional District, I would like to express my deepest condolences to the family of Mr. Matthew David Andersen. Furthermore, I would like to formally extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Andersen and his unwavering commitment to providing the highest level of service throughout his decades-long career with the Department of Commerce. He is greatly missed.

TO NAME THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC IN VALLEJO, CALIFORNIA, AS THE ''DELPHINE METCALF-FOSTER VA CLINIC''

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce legislation to rename the Mare Island Veterans Affairs (VA) Clinic in Vallejo, California as the ''Delphine Metcalf-Foster VA Clinic,'' in recognition of her lifetime of service to others. A life-long resident of Vallejo, Ms. Delphine Metcalf-Foster is a veteran of the U.S. Army Reserve, longtime leader with numerous veterans service organizations, and a pillar of the community. I thank my colleague Congressman Mike Thompson (CA–4) for being the bill's original cosponsor.

Ms. Metcalf-Foster is a disabled U.S. Army Reserve veteran who served during Operation Desert Storm and is a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal. Military service runs in her family. Her father served during the Spanish-American War and was in the U.S. Army's 9th Calvary Regiment, whose members were known as ''Buffalo Soldiers.'' After retiring as a First Sergeant (E–8) in 1996, Ms. Metcalf-Foster began her lifelong work to advocate for and assist fellow veterans.

Ms. Metcalf-Foster has served the VA Northern California Health Care System for over 25 years. She began volunteering to drive veterans to medical appointments. In 2004, she became the Commander of the Disabled American Veterans' Ozie Boler Chapter 21 in Vallejo, DAV Department of California until 2005. Later. she served as the DAV National Commander from 2017 to 2018. This made her the first woman to become the Disabled American Veterans' National Commander, as well as a distinguished leader of this major veterans service organization.

Ms. Metcalf-Foster is also a life-member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In 2018, she was recognized as one of the ''Mighty 25: Influencers Supporting the Military Community.'' In 2019, she was selected as the Grand Marshall for the 166th Vallejo 4th of July Parade. Her expertise was sought after for testimony at hearings before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees advocating to improve outreach to and services for American veterans and those with service-connected disabilities.

It is truly an honor to reintroduce this legislation. I stand with my constituents in Vallejo and California's 8th Congressional District to honor Ms. Delphine Metcalf-Foster and her service to veterans in our community and across the country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WAYNE KIRBY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Wayne Kirby, who passed away on April 3, 2022, at the age of 69.

Wayne grew up in and lived his entire life in Studley, Virginia. He was the second of four boys born to I.D. and Allene Kirby. He took a keen interest in agriculture as a young boy, milking cows and feeding hogs in the morning and working on Jimmy Brannan's vegetable farm in the afternoon.

Wayne attended Lee Davis High School, where he was a proud member—and eventually the president—of its Future Farmers of America club. He graduated from Lee Davis High School in 1971, and subsequently enlisted in the Army National Guard. That same year, he bought his first car—a brand new 1971 Royal Blue Monte Carlo, which he owned and was proud of for his entire life.

After the Lee Davis High School vs. Hermitage High School football game on November 16, 1973, Wayne met his wife, Karen. They got married 5 years later on September 16, 1978. Wayne and Karen were a match made in heaven. They had 2 sons, Grayson and Graham. Wayne was extremely proud of the men his sons became.

Wayne was a dedicated farmer and member of the agricultural community in Virginia. He began his 30 years of working at Alliance Fertilizer in 1971. He purchased his mother's family farm in 1976, which became Creamfield Farm. He served as the director of the Colonial Agricultural Educational Foundation, the Virginia Grain Producers Association, the Virginia Agribusiness Council. Wayne also sat on the Colonial Farm Credit Board of Directors, and on the Virginia Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services. His involvement extended even deeper into the community as he also previously served as the director of the Virginia Corn Check Off Board, as the director of the Virginia Corn Producers Board, on the Alliance Agronomics Board, and on the Hanover County Farm Service Agency Board. Wayne's life was indeed one of service, dedicated to Virginia's agriculture community.

Wayne was also a man of unwavering faith—even during times of extreme hardship. By encouraging everyone to focus on God and His plan, he helped keep hope alive when Grayson was involved in a serious accident. Grayson eventually pulled through and is now thriving. Wayne also served as an Elder at the Mechanicsville Church of Christ, and recently served as its chairman.

Wayne's belief that "failure is not an option" positively impacted those around him. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, mentor, and friend. His life was full of service to his community, faith, and love. He will be missed. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Karen; sons, Grayson and Graham; his grandchildren, Beau and Ava; brothers, Van (Dana) and Gary (Judy); and 8 nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me and countless others in honoring the life of Wayne Kirby.

HONORING CAPTAIN THOMAS F. MANTELL JR.

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Captain Thomas F. Mantell Jr., of Simpson County, Kentucky, who was killed while serving in the Kentucky Air National Guard on January 7, 1948.

Earlier that day, an unidentified flying object was reported in several locations in Kentucky and Ohio. Despite the dangerous nature of the mission, Captain Mantell heroically pursued the object and paid the ultimate sacrifice while in pursuit. His death was the first of the Kentucky Air National Guard.

Captain Mantell also served as a decorated officer in the Army Air Corps, flying missions over Normandy and on D-day. For his service during World War II, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism.

In the years since Captain Mantell's untimely death, the people of Simpson County have kept his memory alive. A memorial was dedicated in his honor in 2001, and commemorations to mark the 75th anniversary will take place this year. I join the people of Simpson County in remembrance and gratitude for his bravery while carrying out his final mission.

HONORING BILL HARPER'S SERVICE TO MINNESOTA'S 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Bill Harper, my long time Chief of Staff, as he retires after 22 years in my office on January 6, 2023.

It has been a privilege to work the past 22 years with Bill. He exemplifies what it means to be a public servant. Bill has dedicated his life to making a positive impact for Minnesota families, communities, and businesses. For more than 2 decades he has been responsible for building and leading my congressional team. Bill's knowledge, vision, and leadership have helped shape everything my office has accomplished, particularly my work on the House Appropriations Committee.

Prior to serving in Congress, Bill managed my first election to the House of Representatives in 2000, but his commitment to public service began much earlier. For 5 years he was an outstanding Peace Corps volunteer in Guatemala and Malawi where he worked with local villagers to improve their lives and livelihoods. His work as Chief of Staff to former Hennepin County Board Chair Mark Andrew, and as a personal assistant to former Minnesota Attorney General Hubert H. Humphrey, III, prepared him with the necessary skills to successfully manage a congressional office.

A significant aspect of Bill's public service is his success in nurturing the next generations of leaders and public servants. He has assembled a staff that I am exceptionally proud of—a dedicated team of public servants who bring nearly 130 years of combined service in their work on behalf of Minnesotans. In addition, numerous former staff and interns have gone on to further service in the executive branch, state government, nonprofit organizations, and elected office.

Bill has always put the people we serve first, making a remarkable difference in lives across the country and around the world. That is the essence of Bill's dedication to others. I know that Bill will continue to make important contributions to Minnesota and our nation well into the future.

On New Year's Day, the Star Tribune published a profile on Bill Harper's distinguished service in my office. In the article, he noted, "as powerful as Washington and Congress may be, we are a direct extension of the people. And it needs to stay that way." His words ring true, and it is my pleasure to enter that article into the RECORD.

As he prepares for the next chapter of his career, I wish him and his family—Roberta, Jonas, Lucia and Tiwonge—all the best. It has been an honor to have Bill serve as my Chief of Staff, and I'm grateful that he'll remain as a friend and political advisor.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to his remarkable career of service to our nation and our community.

[From the Star Tribune, Dec. 31, 2022]

AFTER MORE THAN TWO DECADES, CHIEF OF STAFF SET TO LEAVE REP. BETTY MCCOLLUM'S OFFICE

Bill Harper has been a congressional chief of staff during a crucial span in U.S. history.

His long tenure working for Democratic U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum began after the controversial 2000 presidential election and continued on past the Sept. 11 attacks, the Iraq War, the Great Recession, the outbreak of COVID–19 and the U.S. Capitol insurrection.

As he prepares to leave the job in January, Harper is aware that he was part of a transformative historical period. But he said in a recent interview about his more than two decades on the job that it all comes back "to serving the people and trying to make our democracy, and trying to make Congress, work for the people despite these enormous challenges that we faced."

Harper noted that he was part of the Peace Corps and spent time as an HIV/AIDS volunteer in Malawi before running McCollum's 2000 congressional campaign.

Said McCollum: "If anybody would have told us when we first met working on the campaign that 23 years later we would still be working together, we both would have just laughed out loud."

She said Harper is someone who does his homework, knows what he's talking about and has a very reassuring presence.

"When he says he's going to do something, he's going to do it, and he's a man of his word. And so that's how he's earned so much respect over the years," McCollum said.

During their time working together, McCollum has gone from freshman lawmaker to dean of Minnesota's congressional delegation. In November, she won a 12th term while Democrats narrowly lost control of the U.S. House. McCollum has wielded major influence in the past two years while leading the House Appropriations subcommittee handling defense spending.

"When you're at this level, you take the partisanship out of the equation and you focus on, 'This is about America; this is about our country,'" Harper said.

Democratic U.S. Rep. Dean Phillips called Harper "one of the most connected, principled, honorable and effective Capitol Hill staffers that I know of."

Looking back, Harper said the accomplishment that makes him proudest is his work with McCollum on President George W. Bush's emergency plan for AIDS relief in 2003.

"We secured language for orphans and vulnerable children," he said.

McCollum's office said in a news release when Harper's exit was announced that he will continue to work as a political adviser for the longtime Democratic lawmaker. Harper said he's interested in using his experience and skills to "work with nonprofits and

businesses to help them advance their missions, particularly in the federal space.'' As he prepares to leave Congress behind, Harper said that ''as powerful as Washington and Congress may be, we are a direct extension of the people. And it needs to stay that way.''

CONGRATULATING MIDLANDS TECHNICAL COLLEGE STUDENTS FOR WINNING GOLD IN NATIONAL SKILLS COMPETITION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to recognize the gold medal that the Building Construction Technology Team from Midlands Technical College (MTC) received at the SkillsUSA National Competition.

The championships include a series of career competition events beginning at the local level and continue to the state and national levels. The Midlands Technical College students excelled through each level, qualifying for the national competition in Atlanta on June 23rd where they had the opportunity to compete against the best career and technical education students in the country. Their win is monumental for South Carolina's construction industry and workforce development as it is the first time that a South Carolina technical college has won a national title in the building trades.

I applaud each of the students on the team, Alex Britigan, Taylor Mathias, Nathan Brady, Arturo Salinas, and Cameron Drake, as well as the Building Construction Program Director Robbie Sharpe, and Midlands Technical College's president, Dr. Ronald L. Rhames, for their hard work and achievements. The MTC School of Advanced Manufacturing and Skilled Trade provides an outstanding education and prepares students for successful careers in the automotive industry, graphic design production, welding technology, machine tooling, construction, and other skilled trades. The future of South Carolina's economy looks bright with the students of Midlands Technical College leading the construction industry and workforce development.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LEGISLATIVE HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Legislative Home Rule Act, which would eliminate the congressional review period for D.C. legislation. D.C. legislation takes effect after a congressional review period, unless a joint resolution of disapproval is enacted into law during the review period. The review period imposes significant costs on both D.C. and Congress, but only 3 disapproval resolutions on D.C. legislation have been enacted since passage of the D.C. Home Rule Act in 1973, and none since 1991. Yet, the D.C. Council has had to develop a Kafkaesque legislative process to comply with the review period, often having to pass the same bill multiple times. Congress loses nothing by eliminating the review period. Congress can legislate on any D.C. matter at any time, and has done so many times outside of the review period, such as through the appropriations process.

The congressional review period (30 days for civil bills and 60 days for criminal bills) is based on legislative days, not calendar days, often delaying D.C. bills from becoming law for many months. The delay forces the D.C. Council to pass most bills several times, using a cumbersome and complicated process to ensure that the operations of this large city continue uninterrupted.

Placing a congressional hold on D.C. bills has not only proven unnecessary, but has imposed costs on the D.C. government, residents and businesses. D.C. residents and businesses are placed on hold because they have no certainty when D.C. bills, from taxes to regulations, will take effect, making it difficult to plan. It is particularly unfair to require the D.C. Council to engage in this unnecessary, labor-intensive and costly process.

Last Congress, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform passed this bill as part of my District of Columbia Home Rule Expansion Act of 2022.

I urge my colleagues to support this good-government measure.

HONORING NORMA MICHAEL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a hero, Norma Michael. This Jackson, Mississippi native was on a mission to bring fresh fruits and vegetables to her neighbors, taking on the task by buying an overgrown lot on her street and planting a garden. The retiree is now feeding the elderly and other residents and hoping to inspire the start of more gardens in the inner city.

''The Lord just said Norma start a garden,'' said Norma Michael. In 2020, across the street from Michael's Powers Avenue home was a lot owned by the state that sat empty for more than 20 years. She purchased it for less than $500 with a vision.

''When I got the property, I was like, well, this will be a mighty big garden for just me,'' said Michael. ''So, I said, 'Well, I'll share it with my neighbors.' ''

The Air Force vet and retiree had no experience planting, and after clearing the lot and much hard work, it's now the ''Sharing is Caring Neighborhood Block Garden.'' In it are rows and rows of corn, tomatoes, greens, beans, melons, strawberries, and more.

''I come out here. I tend the garden,'' said Michael. ''I have one neighbor that helps me to plant things, and I come out in the mornings, and I water and harvest, and then I offer the harvest to my neighbors.'' Ninety-one-year-old Clara Triggs lives just a few doors down from the garden. ''She brings me so many things, and everything she brings is my favorite,'' said Triggs.

Since starting her garden, she has started a non-profit to try to turn her small garden into something bigger. She has also received donations to help her continue the good work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Norma Michael for her service in the U.S. Air Force, her community and for being an exemplary citizen in the state of Mississippi.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate met at 10 a.m. in pro forma session, and recessed at 10:00:31 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. on Friday, January 13, 2023.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 41 public bills, H.R. 230–270; and 8 resolutions, H.J. Res. 14; and H.Res 14–20, were introduced.

Pages H149–51

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H152–53**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative McClintock to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H115**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:41 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H119**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:29 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m. **Page H143**

Administration of the Oath of Office: The Speaker administered the Oath of Office to Resident Commissioner-elect González-Colón of Puerto Rico.

Page H143

Establishing the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party: The House agreed to H. Res. 11, establishing the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, by a yea-and-nay vote of 365 yeas to 65 nays, Roll No. 26. **Pages H121–29, H143–44**

Establishing a Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government as a select investigative subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary: The House agreed to 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, by a yea-and-nay vote of 221 yeas to 211 nays, Roll No. 27. **Pages H129–43, H144–45**

Election of Members to Certain Standing Committees: The House agreed to H. Res. 14, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. **Page H145**

Election of Members to Certain Standing Committees: The House agreed to H. Res. 15, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. **Page H145**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H143–44 and H144–45.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2023

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

1:30 p.m., Friday, January 13

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will meet in pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, January 11

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 22—Protecting America's Strategic Petroleum Reserve from China Act. Consideration of H.R. 27—Prosecutors Need to Prosecute Act. Consideration of H. Con. Res. 4—Expressing support for the Nation's law enforcement agencies and condemning any efforts to defund or dismantle law enforcement agencies. Consideration of H.R. 26—Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. Consideration of H. Con. Res. 3—Expressing the sense of Congress condemning the recent attacks on pro-life facilities, groups, and churches.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Bilirakis, Gus M., Fla., E10
Bishop, Sanford D., Jr., Ga., E8
Comer, James, Ky., E12
Cuellar, Henry, Tex., E8, E9
Garamendi, John, Calif., E7, E11
Harshbarger, Diana, Tenn., E8
Hoyer, Steny H., Md., E11
Kim, Andy, N.J., E10
McCollum, Betty, Minn., E12
Murphy, Gregory F., N.C., E7, E9, E11
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, The District of Columbia, E13
Rogers, Mike, Ala., E9
Sherman, Brad, Calif., E8
Simpson, Michael K., Idaho, E10
Thompson, Bennie G., Miss., E13
Van Duyne, Beth, Tex., E8, E9
Vargas, Juan, Calif., E11
Wilson, Joe, S.C., E13
Wittman, Robert J., Va., E7, E11

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