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No. 162

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 3, 2023.

I hereby appoint Honorable LORI CHAVEZ-DEREMER 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.

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, this morning, 40 million Americans will begin their day without access to broadband internet. These high-speed broadband connections, which were once a luxury, have now become essential tools for students, businessowners, farmers, and patients.

Last year, historic BEAD funding was disbursed to the States. Today, it

is critical that these funds are used efficiently, not to gold-plate the infrastructure in our cities, but to finally connect our rural communities to fast, reliable, high-speed internet.

Recently, I was proud to introduce the 5G SALE Act to require the FCC to release previously auctioned spectrum in order to expand access to 5G internet for communities across central and western Pennsylvania.

Bridging the digital divide has never been more important as we fight to ensure that our students can learn from home, that small businesses can operate from home, and that patients can heal from home.

ENACTING REPUBLICANS' COMMITMENT TO AMERICA

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, in the past 10 months since retaking the majority, House Republicans have fought to enact our Commitment to America, working each day to forge an economy that is strong, to build a nation that is safe, to create a future that is built on freedom, and to once again have a government that is accountable to the American people.

We fought to reopen the people's House. We passed H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act, 225–204, because Americans are paying too high a price for gas. We passed H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act, 219–213, because President Biden's border crisis has made each and every State a border State. We passed H.R. 5, the Parents Bill of Rights Act, 213–208, because parents deserve to be involved in their children's education.

These legislative victories have only been possible because House Republicans have remained united and willing to stand up to President Biden's radical agenda. It must be a top priority to fight President Biden's out-of-control spending, his Green New Deal initiatives, and his threats to strip away our constitutional rights.

Madam Speaker, it is time for House Republicans to renew our commitment

to the American people and to our shared conservative values. The work that is still ahead is too great to waste any additional time.

RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING IS SYMBOL OF DISRESPECT

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise, a proud, liberated Democrat in the spirit of Shirley Chisholm, unbought, unbossed, and unafraid—unafraid to say that the Senate of the United States of America cares more about what they wear to work than the building they work in.

There was a recent kerfuffle about the dress code in the Senate. As a result, some 40 Senators—in fact, about 46—signed a letter addressing this newly installed dress code. I won't read it in its entirety because time doesn't permit, but here is what it says in one paragraph: "Allowing casual clothing on the Senate floor disrespects the institution we serve and the American families we represent."

No disrespect, Senators, but I believe allowing Richard Russell's name to stay on the Russell Senate Office Building disrespects the people you serve and disrespects this country. The Richard Russell Senate Office Building is a symbol of racism. It is a symbol of disrespect for the American people, and it certainly disrespects people of African ancestry because Richard Russell was a racist and a bigot.

Richard Russell was the coauthor of the "Southern Manifesto." Richard Russell fought antilynching legislation. Richard Russell's name should not be on a building paid for with taxpayer dollars.

It is time for you to take the same amount of time that you took to reform your dress code and reform the name that is on the Richard Russell

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Senate Office Building. It is easy to do. Just let it revert back to the name it had before it became the Russell Senate Office Building. Let it become the Old Senate Office Building.

If you need more time, take an infinitum and decide the name that you most prefer. I have no name to recommend. I only recommend that you take Russell's name off. It took less than 2 weeks to revert back to the old dress code. It has been more than 50 years that Richard Russell's name has been on this building.

Have you no shame, Senators? Do you not respect the people of African ancestry who go in and out of this building? I refuse to enter the Richard Russell Senate Office Building. I am a one-person protest. I refuse to disrespect myself by entering a building named after a bigot and racist who authored the "Southern Manifesto" and fought antilynching legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

CONGRATULATING JAMES SIMMONS

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate James Simmons, a dedicated construction teacher at North Scott High School in Eldridge, Iowa, who will receive the Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence. This prestigious national recognition awards Mr. Simmons with a \$50,000 grant for his school's skilled trades program.

Teachers, students, and the North Scott principal have been working together to surprise Mr. Simmons today with his award by orchestrating a surprise celebration at his school, held outdoors by the tiny homes his students tirelessly built.

The Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize spotlights the exceptional yet often overlooked contributions of high school skilled trades teachers. This year, the program saw a record number of applicants, with over 1,000 teachers from all 50 States competing in the rigorous selection process.

We are immensely proud of Mr. Simmons. I congratulate him on this well-deserved honor.

HONORING CINDY MONTANEZ

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true champion of the San Fernando Valley, a trailblazer, a leader, "y una de las nuestras," "and one of ours," the Honorable Cindy Montanez from the city of San Fernando.

Cindy and I have had the privilege of representing the northeast San Fernando Valley for the past 27 years. Cindy is a strong, unwavering community leader who, throughout her years of public service, has made sure that the voices of the people of the valley are heard and that they have a seat at the table.

Cindy has lived a quintessential American immigrant story, just like the monarch butterfly. They are bicultural and bring beauty everywhere they go.

She is the proud daughter of Miguel and Margarita Montanez, immigrants from Veracruz and Chihuahua, Mexico. The Montanezes came to the city of San Fernando, where Cindy and her five siblings were born and raised. Together, her family pursued the American Dream, a dream that includes giving back to the community and the country that has given us so much.

Cindy's activism began in 1993, as she pushed to establish the Chicano studies department at the University of California, Los Angeles by participating in a 14-day hunger strike.

At the age of 25, she won a seat on the San Fernando City Council, and 2 years later, she became the mayor of that city. Her exceptional leadership extends to the California State Legislature, where Cindy was the youngest woman elected to the California State Assembly at the age of 28 at that time. At the age of 30, she became the first Latina to chair the powerful assembly rules committee.

She fought for workers' protections, consumer rights, and healthcare access. Out of these accomplishments, what Cindy is best known for is her environmental work.

She continued her environmental activism to become the CEO of TreePeople, one of the largest environmental organizations in all of southern California. With over 3 million volunteers, they planted hundreds of thousands of trees, from San Fernando to Huntington Park.

In 2020, she was called back to her role in public service. She returned home to serve as a councilmember for the city of San Fernando.

Cindy is a titan who has worked tirelessly for her community. It is an honor to stand before you today to tell Cindy Montanez' story. I am not the only one highlighting her and her accomplishments. Last month, the city of San Fernando and the city of Los Angeles voted to rename Pacoima Wash Natural Park, which is shared by both cities, to Cindy Montanez Natural Park.

On August 28, the California State Legislature declared January 19 as Cindy Montanez Day.

These distinctions are well deserved, built on years of tireless service.

I just saw Cindy when I had the privilege to join our community in a celebration to rename Cindy Montanez Natural Park. Cindy was surrounded by dozens and dozens of community mem-

bers, full of love and prayer. It was a beautiful tribute to a hero in our community. For all of this and more, I honor my friend and my "hermana," "sister," Cindy Montanez.

Every time I see a monarch butterfly, I will think of the impact she has had, from the tree-lined streets of San Fernando to the committee rooms of Sacramento and all across our great State of California.

I had the pleasure of meeting Cindy Montanez when she was running for city council 28 years ago. I remember her coming into my office and saying some of her supporters had abandoned her, and I listened to what she had to say. I stood up and said: "I will support you. What I see in you is someone who is running for the right reasons. You care about the community." She said thank you. That is where she launched her career in 1995.

Sometimes in life we meet people and never know where our journeys are going to go, but I am so honored to have called Cindy Montanez my colleague and friend. I am so honored to be able to witness one of the first people who got elected to the State legislature out of our community of the San Fernando Valley who could speak to every constituent both in Spanish and in English. That had never happened before in our community, even though our community of northeast San Fernando Valley was over 75 percent Latino by population, parents like Cindy's parents and my parents who came from Mexico to make a better life for the next generation and the next.

Once again, it is my honor to speak before all of you in this beautiful House about an amazing, beautiful person, Cindy Montanez.

□ 1015

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JACK TRICE

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

Mr. FEENSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Jack Trice—Iowa State University's first African-American athlete, and the namesake of the college football stadium in Ames, Iowa—he is an inspiration.

Trice enrolled at Iowa State University with the desire to play football and graduate with a degree in animal husbandry and to help and support farmers.

Tragically, 100 years ago, on October 8, 1923, Trice passed away at just 21 years old after sustaining severe injuries during a game.

While his life was cut short, his legacy prevailed. In 1997, Iowa State University renamed their college football stadium the Jack Trice Stadium, and it remains the only major stadium in college football that is named after an African American.

Today, Iowa State University supports thousands of students through

the Jack Trice Character Award and Jack Trice Endowed Scholarship helping generations of Cyclones succeed.

This October will mark the 100-year anniversary of Jack Trice's tragic death. To honor him, Iowa State will host the Jack Trice legacy game on October 7 and hold the ceremony at the same location where his funeral was 100 years ago at the central campus lawn on October 8.

I am proud to introduce a House resolution that recognizes the life and legacy of Jack Trice, a young man that passed away way too soon, but inspired our communities and the Cyclone nation.

HONORING OFFICER KEVIN CRAM

Mr. FEENSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Algona Police Officer Kevin Cram, who was senselessly murdered while doing his job.

Officer Cram was a 10-year veteran of Iowa law enforcement and a member of the Algona Police Department. He was also a son, husband, and father who is remembered as a family man and a true hero.

Proudly wearing the badge, he dedicated his career to protecting our families and keeping our streets safe. Words cannot accurately express my gratitude for his service and sacrifice. Officer Cram gave his life to protect the lives of fellow Iowans.

There is no greater sacrifice than this.

My prayers remain with his family, the Algona Police Department, and everyone who knew and loved him.

Madam Speaker, Officer Cram will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING GOVERNOR REYNOLDS AND KEVIN REYNOLDS

Mr. FEENSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend and Iowa's conservative champion, Governor Kim Reynolds and her husband, first gentleman, Kevin Reynolds.

We both came to the Iowa Senate together, serving the rural communities that power our economy and feed and fuel the world. I can tell you that she was the leader back then and she is still a tremendous leader today.

Since day one, she delivered real victories for our State. As promised, she signed into law the largest tax cut in Iowa history, gave parents a voice in their children's education, and she secured a \$1.83 billion surplus for our State budget with no debt. She has also deployed the Iowa National Guard to the southern border to do what President Biden will not do: secure our border and protect our families.

While Governor Reynolds continues her selfless work in Iowa, my prayers are with her family and her husband, Kevin, who was recently diagnosed with cancer. I have no doubt that through their faith in God they will overcome this challenge and they will continue delivering results for Iowa.

Madam Speaker, I thank Governor Reynolds and Kevin for their dedication to our great State.

HONORING UCLA CHANCELLOR GENE BLOCK

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

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in honor of UCLA's Chancellor Gene Block to thank him for 17 years of leadership at America's premier public institution of education, UCLA.

Since 2007, Chancellor Block has increased accessibility and diversity, grown enrollment, and doubled funding for research at UCLA. Today, nearly a third of UCLA graduates are first-generation college students, as Chancellor Block was himself.

Madam Speaker, as a proud UCLA alumnus, I thank Chancellor Block for his service to the public and to the Bruin community, and for keeping UCLA as a top research institution in the Nation. Go Bruins.

RECOGNIZING GUSTAVO OCEGUEDA

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a young man in my district, Gustavo Ocegueda, a remarkable young man whose journey is one of determination and inspiration.

When he was a boy, Gustavo looked at the sky and began collecting model planes, dreaming of becoming a commercial pilot.

As a proud Godinez Fundamental High School alumnus, he stayed focused on his dream, worked hard, volunteered in the community, and played basketball.

He grew up in an underserved community, but his parents' support and sacrifice and hard work pushed him to study at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University where Gustavo spent long nights studying in the library. In the end, it was all worth it.

The multiple jobs and family sacrifices were all worth it when his mother joined him as his first passenger on a commercial flight. He is now a commercial pilot and has finally achieved his dream.

Madam Speaker, I thank Gustavo for his great work and keep flying high.

WHY NOT VICTORY?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, America is sadly in a conflict of dictators with rule of gun opposing democracies with rule of law.

This conflict, we did not choose, was begun by war criminal Putin on February 24, 2022, invading Ukraine, in the murderous tradition of Hitler invading Poland on September 1, 1939, and Stalin invading Poland 2 weeks later on September 17. In 5 weeks, over 70,000 Poles were killed in 1939 by the Nazis and Communists, and now thousands of Ukrainians have been killed by Putin.

I am grateful to have read the book by Senator Barry Goldwater in May

1963, "Why Not Victory?", proposing the ultimate achievement of democracy over Communism.

The Goldwater Presidential campaign led to the hallmark speech, "A Time for Choosing," by Ronald Reagan in 1964. This led to the Reagan Presidency and hundreds of millions of people being liberated from totalitarian communism. More countries today live in freedom and democracy than in the history of the world due to American military strength defeating Communism.

The Russian Embassy in Berlin, Germany, which I visited outside on May 1 this year, clearly reveals Putin's murderous goal of recreating the evil Soviet empire. The hammer and sickle communist symbol is maintained over the massive building, revealing that the Russian people are still being oppressed by a despotic dictator.

With the invasion of Ukraine, Putin now has troops in Moldova and Georgia with direct threats to Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, and even Poland to realign international boundaries. The murderous conquest of Ukraine would be a green light for more conquests putting American families at risk of attack.

It is reassuring that NATO has never been stronger with Finland and Sweden joining the alliance. Finland has an 830-mile border with Russia, and Sweden has given up 200 years of neutrality to stop dictators.

The European Union has doubled the aid correctly provided by America, according to analyst Luke Coffey of the Hudson Institute. Additionally, more than 160 officials across Federal oversight agencies monitor the U.S. aid to Ukraine.

Democracies must continue to stand together to support the brave Ukrainians to restore peace through strength. Goldwater was correct in his book, "The only alternative to victory is—obviously defeat." Putin can end this war today by living up to the agreements that Russia has already signed for Ukrainian territorial integrity.

The Chinese Communist Party is watching as it plans world domination by 2049, with the largest peacetime military build-up in world history. The regime in Tehran continues its chants of death to Israel, death to America with drones to Putin to murder Ukrainians.

The axis of evil is clear: you have dictator Putin, dictator Xi, dictator Raisi. They must be stopped now, or every American family will be threatened by murderers, which I have seen when I saw the murders that were conducted in Bucha, Ukraine, where innocent civilians, with their hands tied behind their backs, were brutally executed and buried by the Putin troops.

As a teenage Republican supporter myself of Barry Goldwater, who attended the National Draft Goldwater Rally in Washington on July 4, 1963, I will always be grateful for his vision for freedom.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues, moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America with Biden open borders. Border security is national security for America.

HONORING OUR FALLEN CAL FIRE MEMBERS

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

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and memorialize our fallen heroes from CAL FIRE who gave their lives to serve our communities. Assistant Chief Josh Bischof, Fire Captain Tim Rodriguez, and pilot Tony Sousa, all sacrificed their life to protect their community while battling a fire in Cabazon.

Assistant Chief Josh Bischof was a devoted and loyal firefighter, husband, and father who never stopped serving others even in his last moments. He started his career in the fire service as a volunteer firefighter in Mountain Center at Volunteer Fire Station 78 and worked his way up through hard work, loyalty, and commitment.

In recent months, before his tragic death, Josh had been promoted to assistant chief with CAL FIRE Southern Region headquarters where he oversaw the training program before transferring to the tactical air operations.

Josh loved his wife of 24 years beyond measure and lived to make his children's dreams come true no matter the cost.

Josh was always up for an adventure and was known for his willingness to help others and was loved and respected by his friends, family, and community.

Now, Fire Captain Tim Rodriguez loved being a firefighter more than anyone could imagine. He was raised in Hemet and graduated from West Valley High School in 1997. He started his fire service career as a firefighter I, serving at Fire Station 41 in Mecca, and was soon promoted to firefighter II at Fire Station 79 in Coachella.

Captain Rodriguez married his wife, Dorothy, in 2001 and had three children: Josh, Haley, and Alexis. He will be remembered for the immense love he had for his family and his passion for staying active by hiking, camping, snowboarding, kayaking, and mountain biking.

Lastly, pilot Tony Sousa of Red Bluff, California, was fulfilling his lifelong dream of being a pilot before the tragic accident.

Before fulfilling his dream, Tony was a dairy worker, a sales representative for Outlaw Kart, a custom harvester, an avid water-skier, and finally a pilot.

In 2022, Tony played a pivotal role in implementing the CAL FIRE Helicopter Coordinator training program. Through this program, Tony guided and mentored a huge cohort of fellow aviators to help them obtain certifications for their aviation careers.

Pilot Sousa is survived by his wife, Rachele; sons, Connor and Carson; father, Ed; and mother, Sharon.

These men were husbands, sons, fathers, who now leave behind loving and caring families. Their bravery, courage, and devotion to duty will always be remembered.

Madam Speaker, I ask everyone present on the House floor to join me in a moment of silence for the CAL FIRE members—Assistant Chief Josh Bischof, Fire Captain Tim Rodriguez, and pilot Tony Sousa.

□ 1030

TRUTH TELLING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to do a little truth telling.

I rise today as a proud member of the silent majority of United States citizens and the super majority of the Republican Party of this august House.

I will be plain. The motion to vacate the speakership is a fool's errand, and I can think of no greater leader in that effort than my colleague from the State of Florida.

The American people are concerned about crime. One of our colleagues was carjacked at gunpoint a mile and a half from where I am speaking today.

The border is open. There have been over 6 million illegal crossings since Joe Biden has taken leadership, 232,972 illegal immigrants were encountered on the southern border last night alone. That is a 27 percent increase from July.

The Customs and Border Patrol has seized over 25,000 pounds of fentanyl this year. That is enough to kill every American citizen over and over and over again.

Madam Speaker, 151 people on the terrorist watch list have been apprehended on the southern border on Joe Biden's watch. We don't know how many people who are plotting to destroy our Nation got across our border. Yet, today, we will spend the people's time so that someone can audition for a television show or possibly the Governorship of a State.

This is unacceptable, and the time for these antics are over.

HONORING NEIL McKIERNAN ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor Neil McKiernan, an outstanding public servant who just recently announced his retirement from the House of Representatives where he has worked for over 20 years; 17 of those years in my office and 7 of those years as chief of staff.

Neil is a native of the State of Connecticut and began his journey over 20 years ago on the Hill as a young assistant working in Congresswoman LINDA SANCHEZ' office. He then worked for a short period of time for my colleague, JOHN LARSON. Then when I was first elected in 2006, Neil joined my office.

Neil worked on a variety of issues during his time there. I see my friend Mr. KELLY from Pennsylvania here. We worked together to repeal the Cadillac tax in 2019, and Neil was part of that really massive bipartisan effort to protect and stabilize the health benefits of union and nonunion workers all across the country, which passed by a margin of 419-6 on the floor.

Mike and I were here that day, and Neil—actually, one of his rare visits to the House floor—was there to join us.

The centerpiece of Neil's work was the fact that I have the honor of representing the submarine capital of the world. It is the home of the oldest submarine base, the Naval Submarine Base Groton in Groton, where there are 16 attack submarines tied up and doing great work for our Nation every single day, as well as General Dynamics Electric Boat Shipyard, a 120-year-old company that is building submarines for the Navy to this day.

This is a picture in 2014 of myself and some staff from the House Committee on Armed Services. Neil is the gentleman on my far right with the glasses and the cup of coffee. It is before dawn at the naval port facility in Cape Canaveral, Florida. We were about to embark on the USS *Missouri*, the submarine right behind us, which was built in Groton and commissioned back in 2011. It is over in the Indo-Pacific region doing great work for our Nation.

Again, when I first came into office, the shipyard was in a dangerous downward spiral. After the Cold War, procurement for submarines had totally collapsed. The shipyard, which once had 28,000-plus workers, was down to roughly 6- or 7,000.

Beginning that year, we got a plus-up, working again with Neil's incredible work, Ike Skelton, and Jack Murtha, and others to turn around that spiral.

Today, the shipyard employs over 21,000 workers. We now again have a build rate of two attack submarines and now the Columbia-class ballistic submarine program is beginning its work. They just laid the keel for the second of those vessels.

It is a great legacy that Neil leaves behind him in terms of really reversing what really would have been a tragic loss of an industrial base with unique talents, but also making sure that our Navy has an undersea fleet, which today, with the threats from China and Russia, is still our strongest card in terms of rebutting and creating real deterrence to keep the world safe.

Admiral Gary Roughead once said our submarine fleet is the queen on the chessboard in terms of being able to go anywhere undetected with stealth and

with the might and potency to make sure our enemies and our competitors abide by international rule of law.

Again, as Neil begins the next chapter in his life, let me express my deep gratitude personally, but also take a moment on the floor of this Chamber to remind people that people like Neil are great staff people and are so essential in terms of doing great things that benefit our country.

Neil, best wishes to you and your family and your future.

REMEMBERING LANNA ALDRIDGE DENISON

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Lanna Aldridge Denison.

This July, Lanna passed away following a fight with a sudden illness. She was known for her radiant smile and her love for others. She earned her position as principal of Blackshear Elementary through her years of dedication and hard work, earning many accolades, including being named district coordinator of student learning objectives for Pierce County Schools and director of student achievement in 2017.

She transformed her school through her tireless and creative efforts, making it a happy, thriving place for the 800 students who looked up to her.

She took every opportunity to put others first and lift their spirits. It was never too early or too late to call her for anything. She truly put everyone else first and many called her their best friend.

Ms. Lanna will forever be known as someone who “loved big” and her impact will be felt for decades to come.

CONGRATULATING ERROL ROACH ON 40 YEARS OF TEACHING MUSIC

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Savannah native Errol Roach for hitting a major milestone. This past June he celebrated his 40th anniversary of teaching music.

At just 4 years old, Mr. Roach was able to play music by ear, and that began his lifelong passion for music. He attended what is now Savannah State University, where at just 19 years old, he started passing down his love of music through teaching lessons out of his parents' home in Carver Village.

Mr. Roach founded the Sound of Joy School of Music in Savannah, Georgia, and was recognized for reaching this milestone of teaching through a proclamation from Savannah Mayor Van Johnson.

The slogan for Mr. Roach's school is “for a world of harmony.” He hopes his students will continue to pass on the gift of music and harmony for many more generations to come.

Madam Speaker, I take this moment to congratulate Mr. Roach on reaching this significant milestone, and I know that he will continue to touch many through his love of music.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF CENTRAL HARDWARE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of Central Hardware. Central Hardware opened on Norwich Street in downtown Brunswick in 1948 and quickly became known as “The Store of 10,000 Items.”

The store is still family owned and is managed by Anne Strother and her brother Baxter Shaw. Their father, Jimmy Shaw, always emphasized the importance of quick, friendly customer service and competitive pricing. This is the main reason the store has survived in the face of competition from big-box stores.

Shaw taught his children everything about the business, and they continued managing it the way he did.

I am proud to say Central Hardware has been an important part of the First District community for 75 years now. Again, I congratulate them on their success, and I know they will continue to bless our community for many more years to come.

APPROPRIATIONS FUNDING CUTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, this week, we have seen the events that have gripped this Nation, the potential for a shutdown, the squabble on the floor for leadership, extreme MAGA opinions trying to impose their points of view on the American people.

This past year, we have also watched distinctly as climate change-related natural disasters have hit every region of this country.

This last week, we saw images from New York City with subways flooding, streets flooding, backyards and front yards of houses flooding. The inability to sustain consistent and persistent rainfall crippled New York City.

As we saw New York City underwater, just 2 months ago, wildfires consumed Maui. Mother Nature is talking to us. Mother Nature is never wrong.

Madam Speaker, this year the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 within the appropriations process slashes the renewable energy and energy-efficient programs by 14 percent—get this—and instead funds the Department's fossil fuel energy at more than \$850 million.

In the middle of this climate crisis, we take money away from renewable energy and we empower fossil fuel energy. We put them on steroids. It also underfunds the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers who will be able to address the flood and storm damage protection and claws back \$50 million that would have allowed communities like the one that I represent from becoming energy efficient.

So right in the middle of global warming, right in the middle of these disasters that are hurting communities

across the Nation, we see how funding is cut for renewable energy and for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer.

The legislative branch bill, as part of the appropriations process, harms both those that work in the Capitol and those that secure it. It lacks funding to secure the Capitol campus and district offices.

Not so long ago, we saw how some of our staff members in the Commonwealth of Virginia were attacked in their district offices where they worked.

We know that security on the Capitol complex is important not just for Members, but for our staff, for visitors, for everyone who makes their way here, just as security is also important in our district offices. Not enough funding has been given to that area.

Retention of U.S. Capitol police officers continues to be a major problem. After January 6, the Capitol Police is having a difficult time recruiting and retaining officers that will protect all of us.

The legislative branch bill also eliminates diversity, equity, and inclusion training. This program has been important to ensure that the government continues to look more and more like the rest of the country.

Inclusion means me being at this podium, Madam Speaker. Inclusion means you presiding over these proceedings. That is inclusion, to have a representative government of the people that make up our people. Yet, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion was eliminated.

□ 1045

THANKING STATION 9 FIREFIGHTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the firefighters of Station 9 in west Little Rock, Arkansas, for their selfless service during the horrific tornado that struck our city and region in March.

The firefighters of Station 9 were standing in their building when it was directly hit by the tornado, completely destroying it.

Despite their fire station being in ruins, they immediately got to work clearing debris, providing emergency assistance, and serving as an important beacon of hope for those in need in that neighborhood.

Their tremendous efforts were a critical component in helping my hometown recover from one of the worst storms in recent history.

I am proud to honor the brave firefighters for their dedicated work in the face of destruction and ruin. Their service stands as a model of resilience and strength for our entire State and Nation.

RECOGNIZING HEIDE HARRELL

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend, Heide

Harrell, on being a recipient of the Public Relations Society of America, Arkansas Chapter's 2023 Crystal Award.

Heide and I worked together at Arkansas-based Delta Trust and Banking Corporation, a Little Rock-based banking, trust, and investment company, where she was the communications and marketing officer.

Today, she serves as the vice president and communications director at Stephens, one of the largest privately held independent investment firms off Wall Street.

Just a few years ago, Heide was selected as an honoree in the 27th class of Arkansas Business 40 Under 40.

Heide is truly an inspiration to all through her hard work and leadership. Mr. Speaker, I thank Heide for being a great friend and a creative force for good across our community.

RECOGNIZING MADISON MURPHY

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a longtime friend and a terrific civic leader in our State, Madison Murphy, on the occasion of Highway 167 from El Dorado to Little Rock being dedicated in his honor.

Madison has been an inspiration to all Arkansans for many years and has received numerous awards and recognition for his work throughout the State.

He has been named to the Arkansas Business 40 Under 40 list and named Arkansas' Tourism Person of the Year for his financial support and inspiration in the creation of the Murphy Arts District in El Dorado.

Madison has also served as chairman of the Arkansas Highway Commission from 2003 to 2013, where he championed the widening of the Highway 167 corridor to provide a four-lane connection between south and central Arkansas, improving roadway safety, mobility, and transit.

Throughout his leadership as chairman, a temporary half-cent sales tax was implemented that funded 31 highway widening projects to improve connectivity across the State.

I applaud Mr. Murphy for his leadership and service to the State of Arkansas and congratulate him on this recognition.

CONTROL DEFICITS AND SPENDING

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday, this House—all the Democrats and 31 Republicans—rejected a stopgap spending measure, which would have lowered spending for the 4 weeks of the continuing resolution period; secured the border with important needs, a critical element that every day we see and hear from our constituents; and established a commission to tackle the biggest challenge this House and this Nation has, which is that 70 percent of our spending, Mr. Speaker, is not voted on on this House floor. It is on autopilot—mandatory spending.

These mandatory spending programs require bipartisan attention to reform them. We can keep the promises made to the American people on Social Security and Medicare, but we need to get our fiscal house in order.

I support that commission, and I was so disappointed that 31 Republicans joined the Democrats to reject it.

Now, in this period of 45 days, as we continue to look for the most conservative spending policies that we can achieve across this House floor and in the Senate, let's be committed that we will have a bipartisan commission on debt and deficit and get this spending and these deficits under control.

HONORING DAVE SMIGLEWSKI

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

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Granite Falls Mayor David Smiglewski.

On September 22, the mayor passed away after a long and courageous battle with ALS.

Mr. Granite Falls, as many came to know him, began his service in city government in 1979 as a member of the city council. In 1996, he became the city's mayor and served in that role for 27 years until his passing.

During his tenure, Dave's commitment as a leader and advocate never wavered. He guided his community through devastating floods in 1997 and 2001 and a tornado in 2000.

He even spent his final days here in Washington, working to secure highway funding for his community.

The people of Granite Falls and the people of Minnesota have lost one of their greatest public servants.

We can all only hope to be more like Dave Smiglewski. I offer my deepest condolences to Cindy, his wife of 40 years, and his children, Cody, Seth, and Laurel.

RECOGNIZING LUKE COOPER

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor one of the best and brightest of Florida's Fourth Congressional District, Luke Cooper.

Luke is an exceptional young man who was recently announced as a silver medalist for the Congressional Award, one of the highest awards Congress can bestow upon America's youth.

The Congressional Award Foundation was created to recognize initiative, service, and achievement in young people. There are exceptionally few who meet these lofty goals, and Luke is one of them.

He has given back to his local community by volunteering at Safe Animal Shelter in Clay County, fostering cats and kittens until they can find forever homes. Through his 150 hours of service, Luke has helped with the shelter's efforts to care for homeless animals while leaving a positive impact on his community.

As a volunteer at Clay County Teen Court, Luke has gained hands-on expe-

rience with our judicial system and learned the necessary skills to be a catalyst for a better tomorrow.

Beyond service to others, Luke has put in hundreds of hours of personal development, including training for a 50-mile cycling excursion and sharpening his problem-solving skills on the golf course.

A prime example of what students from Florida's Fourth Congressional District are capable of, I am proud to congratulate Luke Cooper on his impressive achievements.

HONORING JACKSONVILLE EXCHANGE CLUB

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, what do Hasbro, Warner Brothers, Russell Stover, and the Jacksonville Exchange Club have in common? Well, they all were started in 1923 and have thrived for 100 years. They each represent the gold standard of service and success.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Jacksonville Exchange Club, an all-volunteer national service organization that has been providing valuable services and programs to members of our community for 100 years.

Since 1923, the club has continued to expand and evolve, dedicating their free time toward the pursuit of community projects that promote volunteerism, good citizenship, and love of country.

With a strong belief that America's youth are the leaders of tomorrow, club members actively seek out ways to inspire and engage Jacksonville's youth with programs such as Student of the Year, Accepting the Challenge of Excellence Award, and Americanism Speech Contest.

The Jacksonville Exchange Club continues to not only make a difference through their ongoing community service efforts but by providing members with a space where they may gather, exchange ideas and knowledge, and pursue the core principles envisioned by the club's original members.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this significant milestone of the Jacksonville Exchange Club, its members, and the entire city of Jacksonville.

On its 100th anniversary, I wish the Jacksonville Exchange Club continued growth and prosperity in the years ahead.

CELEBRATING HYUNDAI HOPE ON WHEELS' 25TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of childhood cancer research and the organization Hyundai Hope on Wheels, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Before serving in Congress, I began working with Hyundai Hope on Wheels in my role as a Hyundai dealer. Today, I am proud to work with this incredible

charity in my role as co-chair along with MIKE MCCAUL of the Congressional Childhood Cancer Caucus.

Every time a Hyundai is sold, \$22 of each new vehicle goes toward Hyundai Hope on Wheels to fund pediatric cancer research. Since 1998, this organization has raised over \$225 million. It truly makes Hyundai not only a great company but a good company.

Now, I work with dealers Tom O'Brien and Don Reilly, and these are the men who started this incredible charity. It has played a crucial role in creating hope and saving lives in the battle against childhood cancer, fueling nearly 1,300 research studies at more than 175 medical institutions.

They are dedicated to supporting pediatric cancer research that finds innovative approaches, creates discovery, and improves care for children fighting cancer.

Their milestone came during an important week last month. As they held their annual event here on Capitol Hill, the Congressional Childhood Cancer Caucus held its annual Childhood Cancer Summit simultaneously.

Here in Congress and through the work of our caucus, we have made great legislative strides that have turned bills into laws and hope into action.

Last year, we passed the Childhood Cancer STAR Reauthorization Act. Since it was first passed in 2018, this bill has expanded opportunities for childhood research, improved efforts to identify and track childhood cancer incidences, and enhanced the quality of life for childhood survivors.

Since its inception, the Congressional Childhood Cancer Caucus has had four landmark pieces of legislation signed into law: The Childhood Cancer STAR Act, the Creating Hope Act, the RACE for Children Act, and the Global Hope Act. Our work is not done.

Thanks to their work, and thanks to our partnership in Congress, we have made great strides in funding childhood cancer research. Most importantly, I believe we are getting closer to the day when no parent, no family, will ever again have to hear the words: "Your child has cancer."

I also will take a moment to share a success story from the Hyundai Hope on Wheels program. Each year, Hyundai Hope on Wheels has a youth ambassador, and a few years ago, we met Hannah Adams. She was several years removed from battling cancer herself, and she shared with us some incredible and impactful stories.

Hannah is now 13 years cancer-free, and this summer, she was an intern in our Washington, D.C., office. She is now a junior at the University of Alabama, double majoring in political science and public relations, and we know she will accomplish so much.

It is my honor to have worked alongside Hannah and all of our youth ambassadors over the years.

You can understand why we have a youth ambassador. If you or I were to

go into a cancer hospital and try to talk to a child, it looks like, in my case, their grandfather came in. Hannah was their age. The youth ambassadors are their age, and they connect with children in a way that says to them: Look, I was once in the same position you were in. You can beat this. You can beat this, and we will work with you to do it.

Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. As co-chair of the House Cancer Caucus, I also make a commitment to those who are currently living with or who have lived with breast cancer. Congress will continue to fight for you by providing the necessary funding for research and support in the hope that someday we can find a cure.

CONGRATULATING LAPHONZA BUTLER

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

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, first, I extend my wishes and prayers to the family of Senator Feinstein. Dianne Feinstein dedicated her life to public service, and her passing is a profound loss for our State and country.

I also congratulate LAPHONZA BUTLER on her appointment to the Senate by Governor Newsom, and I say that with all sincerity. I harbor no ill will in any form against Ms. BUTLER. She apparently wasn't even expecting this appointment and only learned about it when she got a call from the Governor, and she agreed to serve. She should be commended for that.

I should say that there has been raised a question concerning whether she meets the requirements to hold this office and to represent California, given that apparently she is a registered voter in Maryland. I trust that the Senate, which is responsible for judging the qualifications of its Members, is taking that inquiry seriously.

I will say, however, that we need to, at this point, kind of pause to reflect on the fact that if Ms. BUTLER is sworn in, which I believe she is supposed to be sworn in today, California will now have two Senators who gained their office not by the authority of voters but, rather, by the whim of a single individual, Governor Gavin Newsom. We will have two Senators who gained their office via appointment.

□ 1100

We also, by the way, have a Senator from New Jersey whose own conference is calling on him to resign, which could create another appointed Senator in the United States Senate.

This is very much contrary to the spirit of the 17th Amendment, which calls for the direct election of Senators. When this amendment was adopted, it was put in place, according to one scholarly article, to replace a distrusted aristocratic regime of appointed Senators with one of popular enfranchisement.

Indeed, since the 17th Amendment, which provided for the direct election of Senators but allowed that governors could appoint Senators still to fill vacancies, these appointments have been subject to all manner of abuses. You have had instances of nepotism. Governors have appointed their children. They have appointed their spouses. Some have even appointed themselves to the U.S. Senate. Indeed, the appointment that Governor Newsom has just made demonstrates the risks that are inherent in an appointment system.

As one headline in today's San Francisco Chronicle reads: "Newsom's handling of Feinstein's replacement was a highlight reel of his political flaws." The writer says that he twisted himself into rhetorical pretzels over the last 2 years because he looked at this appointment through the lens of what is going to help his Presidential aspirations as opposed to what is going to be best for the State of California.

As long as 2 years ago, Governor Newsom made statements about who he might appoint in the event of a vacancy. Then just a few weeks ago, he said he was going to appoint an interim Senator. Then a couple days ago, he walked back that statement and said, no, the person would be free to run for reelection.

This is just not the sort of dynamic that ought to influence who is going to hold a position as important as being the United States Senator from California.

I should also add that it is quite unfair to the candidates who have been running to hold this position in 2024, three of whom currently serve in the House, who have been very actively campaigning and now face the prospect of running against an incumbent who didn't actually have to get to that office and face voters in order to get there.

For this House, the House of Representatives, every single person who walks onto the floor of this House is there by the authority of voters, is there having been elected. There is no reason why it shouldn't be the same in the United States Senate.

I have introduced H. Res. 57. This is a constitutional amendment that will simply say that in order to be a United States Senator, just as to be a United States Representative, you have to get there by an election of the people. If this really is a government of, by, and for the people, as Lincoln put it, then we should make sure that those who are here at this Capitol making important decisions on behalf of the people are there because the people chose them to be so.

THE STATE OF FOOD PRODUCTION

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, we are in perilous times as a Nation due to the

weakness we have been projecting in the last 2½ years from our leadership.

What do we see? When you have a vacuum like that—we know the terminology “nature abhors a vacuum”—China is all too eager to step in and move in and replace us in that regard. We are seeing that with the undermining of our currency around the world. We see it with the BRICS group trying to go on its own where the American currency for many, many years has been the standard.

Now, we don't have a birthright to that. We don't have a birthright as the United States for being number one in anything, but I think we can agree that we would be stronger as a country, as well as with our good intentions as a people, that the United States is well positioned to continue to be the light of the world that it is capable of being.

With bad leadership, with poor leadership, we allow others to come in and replace us in that role. China is seeking to do so on so many things, like manufacturing and food. That is what I would like to talk about today: food production.

At the same time as western countries are saying we need to blame agriculture for climate change, which basically means CO₂ production, I would remind you once again, carbon dioxide is only .04 percent of our atmosphere. All the hysteria over that is that it is somehow going to be the end of us as a people, the end of the Earth; it has only grown a minute amount.

They would have us cut one-third of agriculture in this country. John Kerry, the so-called czar, as he flies in his private jet to yet another fancy event in Davos to talk about climate change, along with hundreds of other private jets, would have us cut one-third of our agriculture in this country.

You see that happening in Europe. You see the Dutch farmers valiantly fighting back against their oppressive government where they are wanting to put a bunch of their land out of business. Holland reclaimed a bunch of land from the ocean via those polders, via those levees they used to push back the ocean and made prime farmland out of that. You have extremists trying to push them out. You see Ireland a while back deciding they need to cull about 30 percent, maybe a third of their dairy herd because dairies make CO₂ and methane gas and such.

There was a time in this country where we had way, way more buffalo on the plains than we do have currently with beef and dairy cattle. That is an interesting stat. It isn't about the animals burping or whatever.

As we see the U.S., due to bad policy, to poor leadership, being displaced in that area, do we really want to become dependent even more so on China and a cartel they might be in with Russia and other alliances they have with Iran, to be more and more dependent on them? We are already dependent on them for 90 percent of our pharma-

ceuticals, and so much of our manufactured products. Do you want to do that to agriculture, too? It makes no sense.

You see what is happening in my home State of California, where California produces so many of these great crops here. Ninety-plus percent that Americans rely on comes from California. We saw just last year, in 2022, that due to the decisions made by the Bureau of Reclamation and others, and the environmental groups, the water got cut off from Shasta Dam and other Federal project water to much of agriculture.

We saw just an example of rice, for example. Normally, about half a million acres of rice are grown in California. They cut that number in half to 250,000. Do you know how devastating that is to communities when you have that and other crops just wiped away because of mismanagement of our water supply during a drought period?

There is still plenty of water that hits California, plenty of snowpack. We were certainly blessed with a lot this year that made things good for the 2023 crops. We are still having a decent carryover, it looks like. As we watch, they are going to fritter the water away at this time of year, as they have to lower the lakes to have a flood control level, conservation level. Indeed, the water that could be used for other things is just now going out to the ocean as so much of it is. It is a water-management issue. It is a leadership issue.

Where is this food going to come from? They want to continue to take dams out. I heard a colleague here yesterday say, well, these dams haven't been maintained over the years. Well, that is purposeful. If the government doesn't put forward the dollars and the effort and the permitting process to maintain and keep dams upgraded, yeah, after 40 years they can deteriorate. Then someone decides, well, it is going to be too expensive to revamp the dam, to bring it up to spec, so let's go ahead and tear it out. That is what they want to begin with.

Where is our food going to come from if we don't have the dams, the water storage, our hydroelectric power, all of those things? It makes no sense what we are doing.

THE PRESS NEEDS TO WAKE UP

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I will address some of the votes that took place on the floor last week, in particular the vote regarding a continuing resolution designed to keep the government open that was taken here last Friday.

The effort to keep the government open failed 232-198. Every Democrat voted against that resolution to close the government. What I am going to address is the fact that 21 Republicans voted against keeping the government

open at that time. The press, particularly The New York Times, probably other organizations as well, referred to those 21 people as hardcore conservatives.

As our country goes under, some people are going to blame the executive, some people will blame Congress, some people will blame the courts, but a lot of it has to fall on the utterly incompetent press corps of this country. Hard-line conservatives?

Let's look at the bill that we wanted to have to keep the government open last Friday. First of all, a continuing resolution is primarily about spending, and that spending bill cut spending, discretionary spending, on all but veterans, the border, and defense, by 30 percent. In other words, across-the-board, you put everything else together, discretionary spending on the Department of Education, the Department of Commerce, the Department of the Interior, the State Department, energy, the legislature itself, a 30 percent reduction in spending.

How in the world can you say the people who voted for the 30 percent reduction in spending are not conservative? How in the world can the press corps refer to the people who voted against a 30 percent reduction in spending as the hard-line conservatives?

We all know part of that bill was not just focused on government spending. Probably the biggest crisis facing America today is the massive group of people coming across the southern border, over 200,000 a month. In addition to that, we have all the unaccompanied minors, 8,000 to 10,000 children, coming across the southern border with no adult accompanying them at all.

In that bill, we also tried to add 22,000 new border agents, end catch and release, so people showing up at the southern border would be kept in Mexico, and the policy of inviting unaccompanied minors into our country. In other words, we were dealing with the immigration crisis.

We had two parts of the bill: A 30 percent reduction in discretionary spending on so much of the budget and, in essence, closing down the border to prevent all of these people coming here illegally, as well as to prevent the drugs coming across that kill over 100,000 Americans a year. The press corps in this country has the nerve to say that the people who sided with the Democrats to kill this bill are hard-line conservatives.

I call upon the slumbering press to wake up and pay attention to what is in these bills and tell us exactly what you mean by hardcore conservatives if they vote against the bill.

There may be a variety of motivations to vote against a bill. There may be personalities. Maybe you want to fancy yourself a hardcore conservative and you count on utter incompetence in the news media.

I beg the press corps in the future to pay attention to what is in these bills

and only use the phrase “hardcore conservative” to describe people who are voting for hardcore conservative bills.

The next thing that I think we should point out here today and the importance of having that large reduction in spending—and I don’t mean to bore you with numbers—is the degree to which, on a daily basis, our country gets in worse and worse shape. That is because the interest rates go up. That is no vote that we take here in Congress. I mean, we fight trench warfare here on a variety of bills. Sometimes the bills are just minor bills that have a few million dollars in them. In the last 2 days, because of an increase in interest rates, the amount of money we are going to have to spend on interest, just interest in the next year, went up \$12 billion.

Since April, when interest rates were like 3½ percent, the cost in interest has gone up over \$100 billion. We have serious problems here, and the costs in interest should also be reported by the press.

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 11 o’clock and 14 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

O God, You desire not the strength of our arguments, nor the vigor of our opinions, but the gravity of our humble sacrifice.

On this day, may we sacrifice our inclination for contempt and instead initiate kindness; loosen our grip on judgment and instead may we grab hold of a generosity of spirit; may we forswear our grudges and commit instead to exercise forbearance.

Hold us accountable that our arguments will support Your righteousness and not ring hollow in the defense of our rightness.

May our struggles serve to preserve the dignity of this body and not erode our commitment to its noble purpose. May our words underscore our devotion to the common good and not undermine our ability to see, even in our adversary, the image of God common to all.

Open us to Your inspiration, for only in You can we aspire to an attitude of sacrifice. With You upholding us, we can be strengthened in our every effort

to do what leads to peace and mutual edification.

We pray unto Him that is able to keep us from falling, hoping that You in Your mercy will receive our prayers and this body into Your keeping.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAMALFA 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

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NATIONAL CLEAN ENERGY WEEK

(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, National Clean Energy week just passed by. It should be a time to recognize the various forms of clean energy available to all of us.

Unfortunately, one form continues to be taken not as seriously and, in many cases, undermined, and that would be hydroelectric power, which has so many benefits. Yet hydroelectric dams across this country, including one in the Klamath area of my district, are being torn out because of an environmental agenda that isn’t even true.

Others are on the hit list, like up in the State of Washington, by their environmental extremists. As policy leaders and consumers push for a more green future, hydropower should be part of that solution as a lot of the needed infrastructure already exists, as well as nuclear power.

Why are we seeing dams that supply low-cost renewable energy that have already existed for over a century being decommissioned?

Because here is the trick: You make it where it is almost impossible to do the maintenance and upgrades to that infrastructure so that over time it becomes too expensive now to continue to have those dams and they are old relics that need to be taken out. That is the trick.

Indeed, had we maintained them and kept them in place, we wouldn’t have

this economic crossroads to deal with. We need to preserve our dams and keep hydroelectric power as a cornerstone of our power grid.

MERIT-BASED EDUCATION STANDARDS FOR ALL PROFESSIONS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, medical education based on competency and merit is necessary to lead the world in healthcare and medical innovation.

Americans sign up for a healthcare system free of racial discrimination. Medical schools must instill this fundamental precept in our country’s future healthcare professionals.

That is why the Education and the Workforce Committee pressed the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the medical school accreditor, on its diversity, equity, and inclusion standards for applicants and its mandate for diversity.

LCME responded to the committee inquiry and publicly clarified that accredited medical schools will not treat applicants differently on the basis of race. With lives on the line, racial discrimination must play no part in our Nation’s healthcare system.

The committee will continue to push for merit-based education standards for all professions in the American workforce.

THE DEDICATION AND PASSION OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Alpha Fire Company of Centre County.

Recently, the Alpha Fire Company made history when an all-women crew took on the initial attack line in a three-alarm fire. Lieutenant Claudia Rudisill, firefighter Talia Cholach, and firefighter Kara Stover answered the call to protect and serve.

Claudia is a recent Penn State graduate, and Talia and Kara are current students at the university. All three come from a long line of firefighters.

Madam Speaker, they made history and they made a difference. They have put in the time and dedication to train, so when the call for help comes, they are able to respond and perform professionally. I know firsthand the dedication and passion volunteer firefighters have when it comes to protecting their communities.

Madam Speaker, I thank Claudia, Talia, and Kara for their bravery and dedication to the State College community.

AMERICANS ARE POORER UNDER PRESIDENT BIDEN

(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, Madam Speaker, yesterday, Arthur Laffer and Stephen Moore of the Committee to Unleash Prosperity, revealed that Biden was accelerating poverty.

The recent Census Bureau report on income and poverty in 2022 was god-awful. The supplemental poverty rate rose in 1 year by nearly a record amount. The child poverty rate doubled. Almost every income group—old people, young people, males, females, and residents of our region of the country—lost ground.

Meanwhile, median income fell by 2.2 percent. The average family is roughly \$2,000 poorer than when Biden entered office, following more than a \$6,000 raise in the middle-class incomes under Trump.

Instead of the JFK aspiration of the rising tide lifting all boats, we now have a falling tide that is capsizing all boats. Biden's failures are a useful reminder that putting equity over prosperity leads inevitably to equal misery.

I am very grateful for the leadership of Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY promoting border security as national security.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues, moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America with Biden open borders.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF ALAN BERNIKOW

(Ms. MALLIOTAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Alan Bernikow, whose generosity impacted thousands of Staten Islanders.

Alan was a mentor and a dear friend of mine. He was a compassionate community leader, entrepreneur, and philanthropist looking to make a difference in the lives of those around him.

He climbed to the top of the corporate ladder. He was the inaugural chairman of the Heart Institute at Staten Island University Hospital; he served on the board of directors of the Richmond University Medical Center; and he was the former President of the Richmond County Country Club and the Jewish Community Center. He also founded the JCC's annual golf and bocce classic which funds scholarships for local children.

He and his wife, Joan, were married for over 50 years and they donated their time, their energy, and their resources to Staten Island's flagship JCC, which bears their name.

Today, on Staten Island, there is a celebration of Alan's life, and I send

my deepest condolences to his family and friends and our community during this difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, I offer this tribute of Alan's life for the official CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

RECOGNIZING AIMEE BEFORT

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Aimee Befort for her tireless efforts to place children in reliable, safe, and loving homes.

In 2013, Aimee started her career in child welfare as a dependency case manager for the St. Johns County Family Integrity Program, which works with State and local partners to find safe homes for abused and neglected children.

After 2 years as a dependency case manager, Aimee transitioned into the role of adoption coordinator, where she works closely with case management staff to avoid prolonged foster care and expedite permanency through adoption.

Thanks to her determination and ongoing efforts to place children in secure homes, she has played a role in finalizing over 250 adoptions for more than 100 families.

Throughout my 40-year career in law enforcement, I have seen the difference individuals like Aimee can make in our community. Without Aimee's heart for our youth, these children would have lost the opportunity for a safe and joyful childhood.

For this reason, I was proud to nominate Aimee for this year's Congressional Angels in Adoption award. On behalf of Florida's Fifth Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, I extend a heartfelt congratulations to Aimee Befort.

Mr. Speaker, may God bless her and this calling, and may God bless the families that she serves.

FOCUS ON THE PRIORITIES FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I just spent time with my constituents over the weekend, and everywhere I went and announced that the government was going to remain open because of the advocacy of Democrats, there was applause. No matter what party, what affiliation they had, there was applause to recognize that law enforcement would be paid, those at the border would be paid, the supplemental nutrition program that families so desperately need would be provided for, and the women and children program would be provided for.

However, at the same time, it is important to take note that we have

passed draconian appropriation bills that sizably cut what working families need—the supplemental nutrition program, the WIC program, housing.

We cannot continue on this route. We must find a bipartisan pathway to fund this government, recognizing that we do have a deficit created by the past administration and that we have been dug out of poverty because of Biden's American Rescue Plan Act that cities have depended on. These cities relied on large Federal dollars that helped them bridge the gap during the pandemic for rural communities, as well.

Madam Speaker, we are getting ready to take a monumental step today. Let's focus on the priorities for the American people.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4394, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RE- LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4364, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH AP- PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 756 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 756

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4394) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived.

SEC. 2. (a) No further amendment to H.R. 4394, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution, and pro forma amendments described in section 4 of this resolution.

(b) Each further amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of this resolution, and shall not be subject to a demand

for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

(c) All points of order against further amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules or against amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of this resolution, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

SEC. 4. During consideration of H.R. 4394 for amendment, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate.

SEC. 5. At the conclusion of consideration of H.R. 4394 for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

SEC. 6. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4364) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment printed in part C of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 7. House Resolution 699 is laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS). The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1215

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this rule and in support of the underlying legislation.

House Resolution 756 provides for consideration of H.R. 4394, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2024, under a structured rule, with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees and provides one motion to recommit.

The rule makes in order 60 amendments. Further, the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 4364, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2024, under a closed rule, with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees and provides for one motion to recommit.

Madam Speaker, since President Biden took office, gas prices are up 60 percent; natural gas prices are up 25 percent; coal prices are up 70 percent; and electricity prices are up 24 percent.

This should raise alarms on the other side of the aisle. I don't mean pulling fire alarms. This should get the attention of the other side.

H.R. 4364 restores American energy dominance. It invests in our national security and delivers fiscal responsibility for the American taxpayer.

As a Navy veteran, I am proud to support H.R. 4394, which provides \$32.51 billion in Defense spending. That is an increase of more than \$1 billion over FY23 enacted levels.

This legislation continues efforts to modernize the Nation's nuclear weapon stockpile, supports Columbia-class submarine reactor development and helps counter our adversaries.

Additionally, H.R. 4394 prioritizes energy security and economic competitiveness by investing \$200 million in critical mineral production and supporting domestic uranium enrichment capabilities.

Finally, this legislation rescinds \$5.58 billion of absolutely reckless spending that was wasted by the previous majority. It terminates Biden's waters of the United States rule and it cuts the dangerous, radical, and extreme Green New Deal programs.

Madam Speaker, additionally, H.R. 4364 ensures that Members of Congress can address the needs of their constituents while prioritizing deficit reduction.

H.R. 4364 reduces spending by 4.5 percent, provides Capitol police officers with an increase of \$46 million over last year, and protects House networks by banning the purchase of telecommunications equipment made in China.

As we work to pass single-subject appropriations bills, I am proud to support the underlying legislation which upholds the House Republicans' commitment to the American people.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, over the past month, House Republicans have plunged this Chamber into chaos. Whether it is the extremists who refuse to honor the bipartisan budget deal negotiated with the White House and voted into law by bipartisan majorities in both houses of Congress, and then sought to shut down the government with their outrageous demands, or whether it is House leadership who seem unable to prevent this destructive behavior or perhaps to leave this Chamber at all.

As I and my Democratic colleagues push back against the majority's cruel, extreme, and unworkable agenda, Members on the other side of the aisle have been consumed with infighting and trying to distract from the fact that their refusal to work in a collaborative or bipartisan manner either with the Senate, Democrats, or even within their own party, has resulted in their failing to perform Congress' most basic job of funding the Federal Government.

Just this past weekend, they brought us within hours of a devastating government shutdown. As the funding deadline approached, my office was fielding calls from terrified constituents; people feeling that come the end of month, their paychecks would no longer arrive and that critical government services which they rely upon would be interrupted.

Parents wondered whether they would be able to make ends meet, whether they would be able to pay the childcare bills that allowed them to go to work and keep food on the table for themselves and their children. Seniors worried about heat assistance as temperatures drop. That is why Democrats stepped in to keep the government up and running without the outrageous rightwing demands coming from the most extreme and exotic fringes of the House Republican majority.

Now, we have 6 weeks before another funding deadline, and we have a lot of work to do. The American people don't deserve this continued uncertainty.

After the majority's reckless approach to government funding failed, time and time again, on the House floor, we still only have 4 of the 12 appropriations bills passed through the House; 2 haven't even been marked up, another one has failed, and more may go down this week.

One would think they would be willing to change tactics because after all, the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result.

You would think they would be willing to come to the table, honor the agreements, pass the spending bills

that the American people should expect and certainly deserve, but apparently not. Instead, we see them doubling down on the strategy of jamming through unrealistic spending proposals that would devastate children, families, seniors, and veterans all across this country.

That includes the two hyper-partisan bills they have brought to the House floor today; bills that continue to break the pattern of the bipartisan funding agreement that Congress approved last spring and that both parties in the Senate have been willing to honor.

These bills slash vital services and include rightwing culture war provisions; bills that are so extreme that the House Republicans may not be able to pass them here, the Senate won't agree to, and the President certainly won't sign.

The first of these is H.R. 4394, the Energy and Water Development funding bill. With this legislation, we should be ensuring that the U.S. is able to meet the challenges of today's and tomorrow's world.

Unfortunately, the bill in front of us doesn't do that. It is full of harmful rescissions, repeals, and funding cuts. It attempts to impede the progress we have made by increasing America's energy costs, jeopardizing our energy security and hurting U.S. global competitiveness.

It claws back important funding that supports programs to combat flooding, improve wildlife habitat, and reduce pollution in our drinking water. That includes millions in funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Let me zoom in on that for a minute and talk about all the important work that the Army Corps does in my district alone.

It is responsible for the regular maintenance of two major rivers running through and alongside Pennsylvania's Fifth district: the Schuylkill and the Delaware. That maintenance includes tasks like dredging, debris removal, and maintaining river bankments.

This river work is critical to our region's environmental, public, and even economic health because it means boats can use our waterways without interruption, and larger vessels can sail into and trade at the port of Philadelphia.

The broader budget cuts included in this bill undermine the importance and viability of all of these programs and means that additional measures to improve the health of our communities, both in my district and others, will go undone.

Critically, this bill also fails to meaningfully confront the climate crisis. In southeastern Pennsylvania, we have already started to feel the effects of climate change, more intense and frequent storms have resulted in unprecedented, devastating flooding across our region.

For example, the Eastwick neighborhood of Philadelphia, which sits adja-

cent to a flood-prone marsh, has experienced increasingly dramatic floods in recent years. About 3 years ago, Tropical Storm Isaias damaged more than 300 homes in this low-lying area. We have seen tornados and flooding in the Brandywine River region in Norristown and elsewhere.

It is important for everyone here to realize that none of our districts are immune from the impacts of the climate crisis. Flooding, hurricanes, rising sea levels, wildfires, and other climate disasters, they affect us all.

My Republican colleagues' denial of this fact would only leave us extremely unprepared and will prevent us from doing anything proactively to address these growing threats and help our communities be more resilient.

Ultimately, it is our constituents and future generations of Americans who will suffer the consequences of these kind of policy failures.

Additionally, just as families have started taking advantage of provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act that reduce their home energy costs, this bill would increase energy bills for hard-working Americans.

For all my Republican colleagues' talk, it is clear that Democrats are the only ones here willing to take action to keep costs down for American families, because with this bill, the majority is trying to undo the work that we did with the Inflation Reduction Act. They want to slash funding for programs that help people to weatherize their homes, purchase efficient appliances, and be able to afford to heat their homes.

These programs have the potential to save Americans thousands of dollars a year. For the past several months, I have been holding meetings across my district to talk to constituents about these measures and help them access and improve their lives and their budgets. Now House Republicans want to take this away.

This bill also blocks funding for initiatives that direct investments to our underserved communities most overburdened by pollution. My region has long struggled with dangerous air quality and its negative health impacts leading to high rates of cancer and some of the highest rates of childhood asthma in our Nation.

Federal investment is needed to ensure that kids in my district and across the country can grow up healthy and have bright futures. In kneecapping this important work, it seems that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are more concerned with catering to polluters than the health of our children, and I find that incredibly disappointing.

We are also considering today H.R. 4364, the legislative branch funding bill.

Unfortunately, this legislation undermines the important work of this institution and threatens Congress' ability to move into the future and serve its constituents and America

today rather than in the 19th century or so.

I served on the bipartisan Select Committee on Modernization of Congress for 2 years. Since then, I have followed its subsequent work to produce recommendations on how to make Congress work better for the American people.

Ultimately, that committee passed over 200 bipartisan recommendations, including recommendations related to diversity and inclusion among our staff here in Congress. Leading businesses around the globe have embraced diversity and inclusion because they know that a diverse workforce is more effective.

Despite the successes we have seen in other sectors, it seems my Republican colleagues here in the House want to go backwards.

Troublingly, they want to eliminate the Office of Diversity and Inclusion here on Capitol Hill. A well-functioning legislative branch is critical our democracy, and I know our democracy is strongest when Members of Congress and their staff look like the America we are here to represent.

□ 1230

We should all want to serve our constituents in the best way we possibly can, and we can only do that if we give our institution the tools and the staff to achieve progress with the times and truly represent our modern Nation.

Unfortunately, this bill would undermine that goal.

Even after flirting with a disastrous shutdown, my Republican colleagues are still trying to force through spending bills written in back rooms with no bipartisan agreement and riddled with culture war poison pills and devastating cuts. They do so knowing that these bills are so extreme that their passage is imperiled here in the House, and it is a fiction if they think it is going through the Senate or that it will be signed into law by the President.

This continued dysfunction only hurts America and throws our country into chaos.

The bottom line is that the House needs to do better than this. The American people deserve better than this.

Madam Speaker, I strongly oppose both of these bills, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I have to share a story about Secretary Granholm because you just can't make up this stuff. NPR reported this story, which makes it even more rich.

Secretary Granholm took a 4-day EV propaganda road trip on the taxpayers' dime that turned into an absolute nightmare for the Secretary. At a stop in Georgia, there was only one available EV charging station for the Secretary's motorcade. What did she do? Well, they had the Department of Energy advance team—who were traveling in gas-powered vehicles, I might

add—they had that advance team go in and reserve a spot while others waited in long lines, battling the summer heat.

Rightfully, a family that was traveling with a baby actually called the police on Secretary Granholm and her advance team.

Earlier this year, Granholm stated, “We can all learn from what China is doing,” regarding climate policies. Let’s just talk about what China is doing because that is about as laughable as the story about her failed propaganda trip.

China emits 30 percent of the world’s global emissions. They emit more than the developed world combined. They emit more than the United States, the EU, and Japan combined. By far, they are the largest polluter in the world.

My friends across the aisle will say nothing to criticize China, by the way.

China’s coal-fired power plants generate more than 23 percent of all forms of U.S. energy combined, and they are allowed to increase their emissions through 2030 under the laughable Paris climate accord. We could all laugh at this if it wasn’t for the devastating effects that Democrats’ climate policy has on the working class in America and for our competitive edge on our number one adversary on the world stage, and that is China.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, let me say to the gentleman from Pennsylvania that nobody has been tougher on China than yours truly here. I take a back seat to no one, and I don’t want to be lectured.

Madam Speaker, I wasn’t going to speak on this rule today, but I feel compelled to say something because I see a pattern developing that I think needs to be called out. It needs to be called out, plain and simple.

They are taking their awful appropriations bills on agriculture and foreign policy, and now energy and water and the legislative branch, and as the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania pointed out, they all have these deep cuts, and then they are loading them up with MAGA culture war crap. I think people ought to understand in plain terms what they are doing.

Let’s focus on some specifics.

They say it is about woke Democrats this and woke Democrats that. I mean, give me a break. They want to get rid of an office here on Capitol Hill that promotes staff diversity and inclusion. Who wants less diversity? If you want everyone here to look the same, just say so.

They want to make it illegal to put up a Pride flag next to a U.S. flag, by the way, at an embassy during Pride Month. That is woke? What is wrong with them?

In one of these bills, they want to make it so that you can use taxpayer money to fire people for being gay. I mean, really? I mean, with all the problems in the world, this is what they focus on? This is what keeps them awake at night?

This is nuts. This isn’t about religious freedom. This is about giving people freedom to discriminate. If they want to be bigoted, so be it, but don’t use the United States Government and taxpayer dollars to reinforce and spread your backward views.

The reason I wanted to come down here is that this isn’t just about politics. Hate crimes against the LGBTQ community are going up. My colleagues come to the floor not only failing to denounce that but advancing ideas which signal to people that it is okay to discriminate, that it is okay to hate. It is sick.

I get it. This is popular in the extreme MAGA world, but I thought there were some moderate voices on the other side that might find this as offensive as I do. I guess I am wrong because Republicans continue to blindly come down here and support these hateful policies and vote for them time after time.

I hope that the next Speaker, whoever that may be—maybe we will find out today—will do a better job of preventing this garbage from coming to the floor, but looking at the Republican Party in 2023, I won’t hold my breath.

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

Let me be clear about something. You can’t be anti-China and pro-EV. You can’t be anti-China and pro-Green New Deal. These things are completely incompatible.

Let me explain. Throughout the Biden Presidency, his administration has been dead set on advancing the foolish, reckless, and extreme Green New Deal agenda. This path forward has propped up our adversaries such as China, which we now rely on for critical minerals to build the expensive EVs that liberals like to parade around in in their affluent suburban neighborhoods. Biden’s officials openly acknowledge that fact.

During an Appropriations subcommittee hearing earlier this year, the Interior Secretary admitted that the Biden administration’s Green New Deal policies actually make our Nation more reliant on China. She admitted it at the hearing.

Do you know what? She is right.

China accounts for 63 percent of the world’s rare earth mining, 85 percent of rare earth processing, and 92 percent of rare earth magnet production. This plays a massive role in producing 70 percent of the global EV battery supply.

While Democrats cheer on these foreign green efforts, China is busy emitting more greenhouse gas than the U.S. and all other developed nations combined.

It has never been more clear. When President Biden and Democrats push for their green agenda, what they are really doing is empowering the Chinese Communist Party, and they are doing it at the expense of the American worker.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I wish that our colleagues across the aisle were as concerned about the fact that this bill would increase our dependence on Russian oil, Russian oil that is being used to fund their illegal, inhumane war against the Ukrainian people.

Madam Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to provide for consideration of a resolution which clearly states that it is the people’s House’s duty to keep our promise to American workers and seniors to protect and preserve Social Security and Medicare and fight against any cuts to these vital programs.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment into the RECORD along with any extraneous material immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE) to discuss our proposal.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Madam Speaker, I have to tell you, there is a virus infecting this Congress, and it is not the ‘rona. It is Republican testosterone poisoning.

All year long, we have heard not one peep from Republicans about Social Security or Medicare—nothing. They have been passing legislation that erodes the health protections of Americans and then high-fiving after these horrible bills pass.

They won’t admit that 63 million seniors will be hurt by their cuts to Social Security—so watch out, granny, because they are coming for you—or that they will cut the lifeline of millions who depend on Medicare to survive.

Instead, we have been stuck in this Republican romper room.

The American people don’t want to hear your lies, and they don’t want to watch your Republican civil warfare meltdown.

They care about their healthcare, jobs, keeping the government open, growing the economy, and protecting us at home and abroad.

They care about being able to put food on the table and having a home to go to.

They care about having a Social Security check in the mail, one that they were promised for their years of work.

They care about what is real to them, and you are not it.

For this reason, I ask my colleagues to defeat the previous question so that we can bring up H.R. 178, an important piece of legislation affirming the House's commitment to protecting Social Security and Medicare.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their comments to the Chair and not to other Members.

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

It is quite the intellectual yoga exercise to somehow say that Republicans are encouraging Russian gas. It is the exact opposite.

Let's think about it. Do you know why there are Russian oil tankers in the harbor in Boston? It is because far-left radical activists, namely the entire Democratic Party, have decided to cancel a pipeline that should have been running from Philadelphia into New England called the Constitution Pipeline that would have brought clean natural gas from Pennsylvania into New England so the residents there have cheap, abundant natural gas and are not forced to buy dirty petroleum from Russian.

Again, the intellectual gymnastics and yoga are quite amazing.

Let's talk about some other far-left, radical policies of my friends across the aisle and how it has made us more dependent on Russia and more dependent on China.

For one, they have a new list of regulations on coal-fired power plants, making it harder for us to burn our clean coal here in the United States and forcing coal producers to ship coal to places like China, where they don't use scrubbers, by the way. Liberals across the aisle ended the Keystone XL pipeline, coincidentally killing tens of thousands of union jobs that they purport to support. They also canceled Federal oil and gas leasing on Federal land.

I ask you, which policies make us more dependent on Russia, ours or the radical left's?

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania for her leadership and for managing this rule that we now have on the floor of the House.

I stand here in the name of so many Americans who live in cities and rural communities that are so dependent on the Federal funding that helps to bridge local government funding, and also those who are most vulnerable in our Nation.

As I rise today, we Democrats did come together to stop the shutdown. As I said earlier, there was applause across my district. At the same time, bills are passed that really shock me. Again, bills were passed that cut \$800 million from the women, infants, and

children program dealing with feeding babies. Then, one of the most talked about issues across America—we just saw something where Habitat for Humanity is building 39 homes under the name of the great President Jimmy Carter and his wife. Here we are cutting \$1 billion to \$500 million from the HOME Investment Partnerships Program that directly deals with the funding that is necessary.

Can you believe the cuts in Medicare? Can you absolutely believe that that is what is happening? The bills are being passed by the Republican majority.

Now, I thought they were concerned about Homeland Security—I served on this committee since 9/11—but border management funding has been severely cut for shelter and services programs, the very programs that are needed by those who come seeking asylum or even those who come whose asylum will be rejected, but the burden is on those local cities. The USCIS and the Transportation Security Administration are both receiving cuts.

Then, of course, we are dealing with this particular legislation, legislative branch and energy and commerce.

□ 1245

It is important to note that funding dealing with water, dealing with climate, and dealing with renewables are all being cut.

I offered amendments in particular to deal with water that were not accepted. I offered amendments to ensure that DACA residents could be hired, which we have done before. Those are individuals that did not spend any time in their foreign land, were brought here as children, and are now doctors, paramedics, lawyers, and teachers, and because of the DACA program we cannot hire them. How insensitive is that?

Then the attacks against the LGBTQ+ community, all of the amendments throughout the entire time that attack them. Then to get rid of the diversity office that we worked so hard for, to ensure that this Congress, the people's House, the United States Senate, reflects the wonderment of America, this wonderful experiment that the world looks to and says: How great this land is. "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty." That is what America is to people. How can we in appropriations after appropriations put in these poison pills?

We stopped the shutdown, but what I can say to you is there is more work to be done. We don't know what the vote will be on the floor today, but I want whatever happens, as I said before, to be for the best for the American people. That is Democrats leading.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY), my good friend and fellow member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Speaker, the Biden administration, through the Department of Energy, is making life harder for Americans and jeopardizing our energy security.

Through gradually increasing efficiency standards, rebate programs, and other regulatory carrot-and-stick measures, this administration is determined to take perfectly reliable, affordable, and efficient appliances off the market and out of reach for ordinary Americans.

The regulatory agenda being carried out at the Biden Department of Energy is a death-by-a-thousand-cuts strategy that will leave Americans sincerely worried about how they will be able to afford to heat their homes in the coming years.

From gas stoves and furnaces to air-conditioners, the Biden administration is forcing Americans away from appliances and technologies that genuinely work and pushing them toward more expensive and less available options.

Time and again, the left tells us that this hardship is the price we all must pay for a so-called greener and cleaner future. In fact, these draconian measures do little to achieve that future while depriving Americans of a quality of life we once took for granted.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to support the underlying legislation, H.R. 4394, because it will put the brakes on the out-of-control, out-of-touch regulatory state that has been unleashed on the American people by the Biden administration.

This legislation rescinds billions of dollars in wasteful spending from the poorly named Inflation Reduction Act that was intended to force Americans away from affordable and reliable appliances toward more expensive and less reliable options.

Madam Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this rule and this underlying legislation today.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ), a distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, just 3 days ago, Democrats voted to keep our government open. We told America how Republicans were slashing vital programs in their extreme appropriations bills.

We voted down the Republican plan to drastically cut programs that keep our babies, children, and their mothers from going hungry, cut public school funding, cut agricultural investments, and cut support for small businesses. That is what the Republicans wanted to do.

The American people heard our warnings, and their voices rang through Congress. Finally, we had a clean continuing resolution without those cuts on the House floor.

With support from the American people, Democrats led the way in keeping our government open. It is a continuation of our work from last Congress where Democrats passed laws to make investments in our future energy independence and in our vision for rural development that has been lacking for decades.

In Jeremiah 29:11, the Lord says: My plan is not for you to suffer, but for you to prosper, have hope and a future.

Democrats showed that we are ready and willing to make that prosperity plan a reality for Americans and especially for rural America.

For too long in rural America and in rural New Mexico, our families have been leaving the farms and ranches that give us our identity, our “herencia y cultura,” “heritage and culture,” and importantly, that give us the food we eat.

Last year, Democrats passed bill after bill to change this trend. We want to invest in rural America.

Through the Inflation Reduction Act and CHIPS and Science Act, we can build the next generation of innovation in places like rural New Mexico. I am looking forward to an enchanted innovation hub in New Mexico.

Now that Republicans are in charge, they want to gut those bills, making rural families pay more and get less.

The Republican energy bill we are considering today wants to gut rural projects, like the SunZia line in Corona, New Mexico, which just installed the largest wind farm in the country. I call it the Route 66 of renewable energy. These wind farms are generating revenues for multiple local ranchers.

Let me tell you something. Many ranchers in the country don’t make a profit. The USDA reported in 2020 that ranchers didn’t generate enough profit to cover their own living expenses and debt obligations for 9 out of 10 years.

The Democrat prosperity plan changes that equation and allows ranchers to earn revenue from clean energy and from food production.

What is more, a wind farm in a rural county like Lincoln, New Mexico, will provide \$1.3 billion in taxes in 30 years. Lincoln County has never seen such revenue before and can use it to invest in rural healthcare and behavioral health.

Rather than build on the transformational investments that Democrats made to support our rural communities, what are the Republicans doing? They are gutting our progress. They want to look backward.

Indeed, all the appropriations bills that the Republicans are putting forth hurt American competitiveness, they hurt rural areas, and they hurt families who need to save money.

Rather than incentivizing the programs that our children will need to save this planet and outcompete China, Republicans are taking us backward.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for a future where the Democratic prosperity plan can become a reality.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this rule.

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

Talking more about the Democratic fascination with helping China, let’s go back to 2022. In 2022, gas prices hit an

all-time record high. Instead of reversing the failed policies of the Biden administration that actually led to gas prices increasing at that rate, instead of doing that, Biden sold 180 million barrels from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to temporarily lower gas prices in a cheap political gimmick.

What did this do? This drained our emergency energy supply to its lowest level since the 1980s, the lowest level since I was born.

Who benefited the most from this? Well, it wasn’t the American worker. It was China. According to the Department of Energy, China’s state refining company bought 2 million barrels of Strategic Petroleum Reserve oil in 2022.

Instead of powering China’s economy, House Republicans are passing legislation this week that actually lowers energy costs, that ends radical Green New Deal programs, and restores our energy independence.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, funding the Federal Government is not a game. The American people who elect us to Congress depend on us to solve real problems. They don’t send us here to play politics with their lives and our country’s future.

The incompetence, extremism, and infighting we have seen on display from our Republican colleagues is not serious governance. It is dangerous. It is destructive behavior, and it makes it wholly clear that there are Members of this body who care more about making headlines than the job they were sent here to do.

Madam Speaker, our budgets reflect our priorities. Democrats are here to put people over politics, and these bills make it clear that my Republican colleagues are prioritizing scoring political points over working for American families or strengthening this body and our democracy or protecting our planet.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose the previous question and the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, it is clear, President Biden’s energy policies benefit our foreign adversaries, not the American worker.

The Biden administration has made our vehicle market heavily dependent on communist China. The administration has also cut deals with Iran. I might remind everybody that Iran is a state sponsor of terror. In fact, the Biden administration released \$6 billion in oil revenue that will fund terrorist operations against the United States and our number one ally in the Middle East, Israel.

Recently, the President drained our strategic oil reserve to the lowest levels. To what end? To fuel China’s economy.

Earlier this year, FERC Commissioner Mark Christie predicted in a Senate hearing that our energy grid is: “. . . heading for a very catastrophic situation. . . .”

Why is this? It is because of the far left’s rush to foolish green policies. This is the wrong path to go down.

This is why I am proud to support the underlying legislation which restores the Strategic Petroleum Reserves. It also helps our national security mission, increases funding for our ports and inland waterways, like the locks and dams that run through my district, and it invests in our Nation’s security.

After the previous majority spent \$3 trillion outside of the appropriations process, this legislation actually reins in billions of dollars to reduce our out-of-control national debt.

Under House Republicans, we have passed legislation to lower energy costs for the American family, reformed our permitting process, allowed the Mountain Valley pipeline to finish construction, and preserved vehicle choice in the marketplace. This legislation before us keeps up that commitment to the American people.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on the previous question and “yes” on the rule.

The material previously referred to by Ms. SCANLON is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 756 OFFERED BY
MS. SCANLON OF PENNSYLVANIA

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 8. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the resolution (H. Res. 178) affirming the House of Representatives’ commitment to protect and strengthen Social Security and Medicare. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees.

SEC. 9. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H. Res. 178.

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAREY). The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

Ms. SCANLON. 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.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1330

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 1 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 756; and

Adoption of House Resolution 756, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4394, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4364, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 756) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4394) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4364) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 218, nays 207, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 516]

YEAS—218

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------------|
| Aderholt | Bentz | Burgess |
| Alford | Bergman | Burlison |
| Allen | Bice | Calvert |
| Amodei | Biggs | Cammack |
| Armstrong | Bilirakis | Carey |
| Arrington | Bishop (NC) | Carl |
| Babin | Boebert | Carter (GA) |
| Bacon | Bost | Chavez-DeRemer |
| Baird | Brecheen | Ciscomani |
| Balderson | Buchanan | Cline |
| Banks | Buck | Cloud |
| Barr | Bucshon | Clyde |
| Bean (FL) | Burchett | Cole |

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Collins | Hudson |
| Comer | Huizenga |
| Crane | Hunt |
| Crawford | Issa |
| Crenshaw | Jackson (TX) |
| Curtis | James |
| D'Esposito | Johnson (LA) |
| Davidson | Johnson (OH) |
| De La Cruz | Johnson (SD) |
| DesJarlais | Jordan |
| Diaz-Balart | Joyce (OH) |
| Donalds | Joyce (PA) |
| Duarte | Kean (NJ) |
| Duncan | Kelly (MS) |
| Dunn (FL) | Kelly (PA) |
| Edwards | Kiggans (VA) |
| Ellzey | Kiley |
| Emmer | Kim (CA) |
| Estes | Kustoff |
| Ezell | LaHood |
| Fallon | LaLota |
| Feenstra | LaMalfa |
| Ferguson | Lamborn |
| Finstad | Langworthy |
| Fischbach | Latta |
| Fitzgerald | LaTurner |
| Fitzpatrick | Lawler |
| Fleischmann | Lee (FL) |
| Flood | Lesko |
| Foxx | Letlow |
| Franklin, C. | Loudermilk |
| Scott | Lucas |
| Fry | Luetkemeyer |
| Fulcher | Luttrill |
| Gaetz | Mace |
| Gallagher | Malliotakis |
| Garbarino | Mann |
| Garcia, Mike | Massie |
| Gimenez | Mast |
| Gonzales, Tony | McCaul |
| Good (VA) | McClain |
| Gooden (TX) | McClintock |
| Gosar | McCormick |
| Granger | McHenry |
| Graves (LA) | Meuser |
| Graves (MO) | Miller (IL) |
| Green (TN) | Miller (OH) |
| Greene (GA) | Miller (WV) |
| Griffith | Miller-Meeks |
| Grothman | Mills |
| Guest | Molinaro |
| Guthrie | Moolenaar |
| Hageman | Mooney |
| Harris | Moore (AL) |
| Harshbarger | Moore (UT) |
| Hern | Moran |
| Higgins (LA) | Murphy |
| Hill | Nehls |
| Hinson | Newhouse |
| Houchin | Norman |

NAYS—207

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Adams | Connolly |
| Agullar | Correa |
| Allred | Costa |
| Auchincloss | Courtney |
| Balint | Craig |
| Barragan | Crockett |
| Beatty | Crow |
| Bera | Cuellar |
| Beyer | David (KS) |
| Bishop (GA) | Davis (IL) |
| Blumenauer | Davis (NC) |
| Blunt Rochester | Dean (PA) |
| Bonamici | DeGette |
| Bowman | DeLauro |
| Boyle (PA) | DelBene |
| Brown | Deluzio |
| Brownley | DeSaulnier |
| Budzinski | Dingell |
| Caraveo | Doggett |
| Carbajal | Escobar |
| Cárdenas | Eshoo |
| Carson | Españillat |
| Carter (LA) | Evans |
| Cartwright | Fletcher |
| Casar | Foster |
| Case | Foushee |
| Casten | Frankel, Lois |
| Castor (FL) | Gammack |
| Castro (TX) | Frost |
| Cherfilus- | Gallego |
| McCormick | Garamendi |
| Chu | García (IL) |
| Clark (MA) | García (TX) |
| Clarke (NY) | García, Robert |
| Cleaver | Golden (ME) |
| Clyburn | Goldman (NY) |
| Cohen | Gomez |

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Nunn (IA) | Lee (PA) |
| Obenrolte | Leger Fernandez |
| Ogles | Levin |
| Owens | Lieu |
| Palmer | Lofgren |
| Pence | Lynch |
| Perry | Magaziner |
| Pfluger | Manning |
| Posey | Matsui |
| Reschenthaler | McBath |
| Rodgers (WA) | McClellan |
| Rogers (AL) | McCollum |
| Rogers (KY) | McGarvey |
| Rose | McGovern |
| Rosendale | Meeks |
| Rouzer | Menendez |
| Roy | Meng |
| Rutherford | Mfume |
| Salazar | Moore (WI) |
| Santos | Morelle |
| Scalise | Moskowitz |
| Schweikert | Moulton |
| Scott, Austin | Mrvan |
| Self | Mullin |
| Sessions | Nadler |
| Simpson | Napolitano |
| Smith (MO) | Neal |
| Smith (NE) | Neguse |
| Smith (NJ) | Nickle |
| Smucker | Norcross |
| Spartz | Ocasio-Cortez |
| Stauber | Omar |
| Steel | Pallone |
| Stefanik | Panetta |
| Steil | |
| Steube | |
| Strong | |
| Tenney | |
| Thompson (PA) | |
| Tiffany | |
| Timmons | |
| Turner | |
| Valadao | |
| Van Drew | |
| Van Dуйne | |
| Van Orden | |
| Wagner | |
| Walberg | |
| Waltz | |
| Weber (TX) | |
| Webster (FL) | |
| Wenstrup | |
| Westerman | |
| Williams (NY) | |
| Williams (TX) | |
| Wilson (SC) | |
| Wittman | |
| Womack | |
| Yakym | |
| Zinke | |

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Pappas | Sorensen |
| Pascrell | Soto |
| Payne | Spanberger |
| Perez | Stansbury |
| Peters | Stanton |
| Pettersen | Stevens |
| Phillips | Strickland |
| Pingree | Swalwell |
| Pocan | Takano |
| Porter | Thanedar |
| Pressley | Thompson (CA) |
| Quigley | Thompson (MS) |
| Ramirez | Titus |
| Raskin | Tlaib |
| Ross | Tokuda |
| Ruiz | Tonko |
| Ruppersberger | Torres (CA) |
| Ryan | Torres (NY) |
| Salinas | Torres (NY) |
| Sánchez | Trahan |
| Sarbanes | Trone |
| Scanlon | Underwood |
| Schakowsky | Vargas |
| Schiff | Vasquez |
| Schneider | Veasey |
| Scholten | Velázquez |
| Schrier | Wasserman |
| Scott (VA) | Schultz |
| Scott, David | Waters |
| Sewell | Watson Coleman |
| Sherman | Wexton |
| Sherrill | Wild |
| Slotkin | Williams (GA) |
| Smith (WA) | |

NOT VOTING—7

| | | |
|-------------|---------|-------------|
| Bush | Pelosi | Wilson (FL) |
| Carter (TX) | Peltola | |
| Luna | Sykes | |

□ 1403

Mr. MURPHY changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). The question is on the resolution.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—aye 218, noes 208, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 517]

AYES—218

| | | |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| Aderholt | Calvert | Emmer |
| Alford | Cammack | Estes |
| Allen | Carey | Ezell |
| Amodei | Carl | Fallon |
| Armstrong | Carter (GA) | Feenstra |
| Arrington | Chavez-DeRemer | Ferguson |
| Babin | Ciscomani | Finstad |
| Bacon | Cline | Fischbach |
| Baird | Cloud | Fitzgerald |
| Balderson | Clyde | Fitzpatrick |
| Banks | Cole | Fleischmann |
| Barr | Collins | Flood |
| Bean (FL) | Comer | Foxx |
| Bentz | Crane | Franklin, C. |
| Bergman | Crawford | Scott |
| Bice | Crenshaw | Fry |
| Biggs | Curtis | Fulcher |
| Bilirakis | D'Esposito | Gaetz |
| Bishop (NC) | Davidson | Gallagher |
| Boebert | De La Cruz | Garbarino |
| Bost | DesJarlais | Garcia, Mike |
| Brecheen | Diaz-Balart | Gimenez |
| Buchanan | Donalds | Gonzales, Tony |
| Buck | Duarte | Good (VA) |
| Bucshon | Duncan | Gooden (TX) |
| Burchett | Dunn (FL) | Gosar |
| Burlison | Edwards | Granger |
| | Ellzey | Graves (LA) |

Graves (MO) Loudermilk
 Green (TN) Lucas
 Greene (GA) Luetkemeyer
 Griffith Luttrell
 Grothman Mace
 Guest Malliotakis
 Guthrie Mann
 Hageman Massie
 Harris Mast
 Harshbarger McCarthy
 Hern McCaul
 Higgins (LA) McClain
 Hill McClintock
 Hinson McCormick
 Houchin McHenry
 Hudson Meuser
 Huizenga Miller (IL)
 Hunt Miller (OH)
 Issa Miller (WV)
 Jackson (TX) Miller-Meeks
 James Mills
 Johnson (LA) Molinaro
 Johnson (OH) Moolenaar
 Johnson (SD) Moonney
 Jordan Moore (AL)
 Joyce (OH) Moore (UT)
 Joyce (PA) Moran
 Kean (NJ) Murphy
 Kelly (MS) Nehls
 Kelly (PA) Newhouse
 Kiggans (VA) Norman
 Kiley Nunn (IA)
 Kim (CA) Obernolte
 Kustoff Ogles
 LaHood Owens
 LaLota Palmer
 LaMalfa Pence
 Lamborn Perry
 Langworthy Pfluger
 Latta Posey
 LaTurner Reschenthaler
 Lawler Rodgers (WA)
 Lee (FL) Rogers (KY)
 Lesko Rose
 Letlow Rosendale

NOES—208

Adams Deluzio
 Aguilar DeSaulnier
 Allred Dingell
 Auchincloss Doggett
 Balint Escobar
 Barragán Eshoo
 Beatty Espaillat
 Bera Evans
 Beyer Fletcher
 Bishop (GA) Foster
 Blumenauer Foushee
 Blunt Rochester Frankel, Lois
 Bonamici Frost
 Bowman Gallego
 Boyle (PA) Garamendi
 Brown Garcia (IL)
 Brownley Garcia (TX)
 Budzinski Garcia, Robert
 Caraveo Golden (ME)
 Carbajal Goldman (NY)
 Cárdenas Gomez
 Carson Gonzalez,
 Carter (LA) Vicente
 Cartwright Gottheimer
 Casar Green, Al (TX)
 Case Grijalva
 Casten Harder (CA)
 Castor (FL) Hayes
 Castro (TX) Higgins (NY)
 Cherfilus- McCormick Himes
 Chu Horsford
 Clark (MA) Houlahan
 Clarke (NY) Hoyer
 Cleaver Hoyle (OR)
 Clyburn Huffman
 Cohen Ivey
 Connolly Jackson (IL)
 Correa Jackson (NC)
 Costa Jackson Lee
 Courtney Jacobs
 Craig Jayapal
 Crockett Jeffries
 Crow Johnson (GA)
 Cuellar Kamlager-Dove
 Davids (KS) Kaptur
 Davis (IL) Keating
 Davis (NC) Kelly (IL)
 Dean (PA) Khanna
 DeGette Kildee
 DeLauro Kilmer
 DeBene Kim (NJ)
 Krishnamoorthi

Ramirez Sherman
 Raskin Sherrill
 Rogers (AL) Slotkin
 Ross Smith (WA)
 Ruiz Sorensen
 Ruppersberger Soto
 Ryan Spanberger
 Salinas Stansbury
 Sánchez Stanton
 Sarbanes Stevens
 Scanlon Strickland
 Schakowsky Swalwell
 Schiff Takano
 Schneider Thanedar
 Scholten Thompson (CA)
 Schrier Thompson (MS)
 Scott (VA) Titus
 Scott, David Tlaib
 Sewell Tokuda

NOT VOTING—7

Bush Pelosi
 Carter (TX) Peltola
 Luna Sykes

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
 The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1426

Mr. SHERMAN changed his vote from “present” to “nay.”

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.

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the House and offer the resolution I previously noticed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 757

Resolved, That the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives is hereby declared to be vacant.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution qualifies as a question of the privileges of the House.

MOTION TO TABLE

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to table at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Cole of Oklahoma moves to lay the resolution on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 208, nays 218, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 518]

YEAS—208

Aderholt Baird
 Alford Balderson
 Allen Banks
 Amodei Barr
 Armstrong Bean (FL)
 Arrington Bentz
 Babin Bergman
 Bacon Bice

Burlison Harshbarger
 Calvert Hern
 Cammack Higgins (LA)
 Carey Hill
 Carl Hinson
 Carter (GA) Houchin
 Chavez-DeRemer Hudson
 Ciscomani Huizenga
 Cline Hunt
 Cloud Issa
 Clyde Jackson (TX)
 Cole James
 Collins Johnson (LA)
 Comer Johnson (OH)
 Crawford Johnson (SD)
 Crenshaw Jordan
 Curtis Joyce (OH)
 D’Esposito Joyce (PA)
 De La Cruz Kean (NJ)
 DesJarlais Kelly (MS)
 Diaz-Balart Kelly (VA)
 Donalds Kiggans (GA)
 Duarte Kiley
 Duncan Kim (CA)
 Dunn (FL) Kustoff
 Edwards LaHood
 Ellzey LaLota
 Emmer LaMalfa
 Estes Lamborn
 Ezell Langworthy
 Fallon Latta
 Feenstra LaTurner
 Ferguson Lawler
 Finstad Lee (FL)
 Fischbach Lesko
 Fitzgerald Letlow
 Fitzpatrick Loudermilk
 Fleischmann Lucas
 Flood Luetkemeyer
 Foyx Luttrell
 Franklin, C. Malliotakis
 Scott Mann
 Fry Massie
 Fulcher Mast
 Gallagher McCarthy
 Garbarino McCaul
 Garcia, Mike McClain
 Gimenez McClintock
 Gonzales, Tony McCormick
 Gooden (TX) McHenry
 Gosar Meuser
 Granger Miller (IL)
 Graves (LA) Miller (OH)
 Graves (MO) Miller (WV)
 Green (TN) Miller-Meeks
 Greene (GA) Molinaro
 Griffith Moolenaar
 Grothman Moonney
 Guest Moore (AL)
 Guthrie Moore (UT)
 Hageman Moran
 Harris Murphy

NAYS—218

Clark (MA) Gaetz
 Clarke (NY) Gallego
 Cleaver Garamendi
 Clyburn Garcia (IL)
 Cohen Garcia (TX)
 Connolly Garcia, Robert
 Correa Golden (ME)
 Costa Goldman (NY)
 Courtney Gomez
 Craig Gonzalez,
 Crane Vicente
 Crockett Good (VA)
 Crow Gottheimer
 Cuellar Green, Al (TX)
 Davids (KS) Grijalva
 Davidson Harder (CA)
 Davis (IL) Hayes
 Davis (NC) Higgins (NY)
 Dean (PA) Himes
 DeGette Horsford
 DeLauro Houlahan
 DeBene Hoyer
 Deluzio Hoyle (OR)
 Cárdenas DeSaulnier Huffman
 Carson Dingell
 Carter (LA) Doggett
 Cartwright Escobar
 Casar Eshoo
 Case Espaillat
 Casten Jayapal
 Castor (FL) Fletcher
 Castro (TX) Foster
 Cherfilus- Foushee
 McCormick Frankel, Lois
 Chu Frost

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Kelly (IL) | Napolitano | Sewell |
| Khanna | Neal | Sherman |
| Kildee | Neguse | Sherrill |
| Kilmer | Nickel | Slotkin |
| Kim (NJ) | Norcross | Smith (WA) |
| Krishnamoorthi | Ocasio-Cortez | Sorensen |
| Kuster | Omar | Soto |
| Landsman | Pallone | Spanberger |
| Larsen (WA) | Panetta | Spartz |
| Larson (CT) | Pappas | Stansbury |
| Lee (CA) | Pascrell | Stanton |
| Lee (NV) | Payne | Stevens |
| Lee (PA) | Perez | Strickland |
| Leger Fernandez | Peters | Swalwell |
| Levin | Petterson | Takano |
| Lieu | Phillips | Thanedar |
| Lofgren | Pingree | Thompson (CA) |
| Lynch | Pocan | Thompson (MS) |
| Mace | Porter | Titus |
| Magaziner | Pressley | Tlaib |
| Manning | Quigley | Tokuda |
| Matsui | Ramirez | Tonko |
| McBath | Raskin | Torres (CA) |
| McClellan | Rosendale | Torres (NY) |
| McCollum | Ross | Trahan |
| McGarvey | Ruiz | Trone |
| McGovern | Ruppersberger | Underwood |
| Meeks | Ryan | Vargas |
| Menendez | Salinas | Vasquez |
| Meng | Sánchez | Veasey |
| Mfume | Sarbanes | Velázquez |
| Mills | Scanlon | Wasserman |
| Moore (WI) | Schakowsky | Schultz |
| Morelle | Schiff | Waters |
| Moskowitz | Schneider | Watson Coleman |
| Moulton | Scholten | Wexton |
| Mrvan | Schrier | Scott (VA) |
| Mullin | Scott (VA) | Wild |
| Nadler | Scott, David | Williams (GA) |

NOT VOTING—7

| | | |
|-------------|---------|-------------|
| Bush | Pelosi | Wilson (FL) |
| Carter (TX) | Peltola | |
| Luna | Sykes | |

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1443

So the motion to table was rejected. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(a)(2) of rule IX, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Before the gentleman speaks, may I remind my colleagues that all parties need to be heard. Would you please clear the well and clear the aisles, and any extraneous conversations need to be taken from the floor.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, like so many others, I deeply regret that we are here in what was a totally avoidable situation.

I must take you back to January, however, which for many of us was about not repeating the failures of the past and letting Republican voters across the country down once again, when in the past for many years, when Republicans have had majorities in this Chamber, we have passed our major spending bills predominantly with Democratic votes; something the other side of the House has never and would never do with majority control.

Back in January, I expressed my concern that the previous 2 years during my first term here in this House, we had not used every tool at our disposal to fight against the harmful, radical Democrat agenda that is destroying the country, bankrupting the country, and under which the American people are suffering.

Most in here wouldn't know that I helped persuade my five colleagues who comprised the remaining resistance in the wee morning hours of January 7 to switch our votes to "present" to let Mr. MCCARTHY become Speaker.

I went to him on this very floor to tell him that he was finally going to become Speaker on the next vote. In that moment, it was clear to me that I or we could have asked for anything in exchange for switching our votes to "present," but I and we asked for nothing.

The very next week, I requested and had a meeting with Speaker MCCARTHY to tell him he had my full support and that I wanted him to be successful because the country needed him to be successful.

In the ensuing months, I helped him narrowly pass the Parents Bill of Rights and the Limit, Save, Grow bill—I think both of those by just one or two votes—helping persuade some of my most conservative colleagues to come along despite some of the concerns they had with those bills.

We remained united as a Conference through the Limit, Save, Grow vote as we passed a bill that was cutting spending to pre-COVID levels for non-defense discretionary spending or just over \$100 billion, historic spending cuts, as the Speaker had committed to do in January. It also included a host of other conservative fiscal reforms.

Unfortunately, however, that unity and that commitment to significant year-one cuts and spending reforms were discarded in the failed responsibility act, as I call it, which passed overwhelmingly, once again, with a majority of Democrat votes, validating the concern many of us had in January.

Many of us had begged the Speaker, pleaded with the Speaker repeatedly, to utilize the debt ceiling to leverage spending cuts and reforms.

Instead, he negotiated an unlimited increase to the debt ceiling through January of '25, as much as we can come together and gleefully spend through January of '25, with no significant wins for the American people in that FRA or failed responsibility act.

The Speaker then said that we would use appropriations to bring the fight and finally reduce our spending.

He said the levels of the FRA were the ceiling and not the floor, and re-committed multiple times to go back to the \$1.471 trillion that was the Limit, Save, Grow levels, radically, historically saving \$100 billion and lowering the deficit this year under Republican majority from \$2.2 trillion to \$2.1 trillion. That is what we were asking the Republican House to do, to go to \$2.1 trillion.

Meanwhile, the Speaker had committed to bring a balanced budget vote to this floor, something that still has not happened despite the work that has been done in our Budget Committee to mark it up and have it ready to come to the floor.

He also promised that we would bring all 12 appropriations bills well before the September 30 fiscal deadline. We did not.

We simply, as Republicans, needed the Speaker to cast the vision, request the support of the entire Conference, all of whom voted for the Limit, Save, Grow levels, except for four who wanted to go even further, to lead us in joining him, sticking with him, supporting him, and sending the most conservative spending bills with the most conservative cuts possible to the Senate as the best starting position for negotiations with the Senate. Many of us begged and pleaded with the Speaker to do that over the past 5 months.

When the Speaker failed to lead us to pass our spending bills, bringing only 1 of 12 to the floor before the August district work period, Members began to negotiate amongst themselves without the Speaker to find compromise.

I was among those who reluctantly agreed last month to split the difference between failed responsibilities, \$1.526, and the Limit, Save, Grow, \$1.471. I reluctantly agreed to do that, to go to \$1.526, in order to pass our bills on to the Senate.

We then essentially forced the Speaker with the pressure of the shutdown threat of the calendar to bring those four bills to the floor last week, all of which I voted for, despite some of them not cutting to the levels we agreed to and other concerns I had with the bills.

I reluctantly voted for a 30-day conditional CR, continuing resolution, because it cut an additional \$10 billion in the month of October, going back to the pre-COVID \$1.471 levels for defense, nondefense discretionary, 30 percent, and it had border security. I voted for that.

However, when that vote failed, the Speaker, this past Friday in the Republican Conference meeting, made it abundantly clear that he was willing to do anything to avoid the temporary discomfort and the pressure of a pause in the 15 percent of the nonessential Federal Government operations, which would guarantee that we would lose to the Senate Democrats and the White House. If you are not willing to say no, then you are guaranteed to lose.

That was confirmed with the passage of the unconditional 45-day CR this past Saturday, once again with 209 Democrat votes. The Republican bill, 209-1 Democrats; 51-0 on the Senate side.

The Speaker fought through 15 votes in January to become Speaker but was only willing to fight through one failed CR before surrendering to the Democrats on Saturday. We need a Speaker who will fight for something, anything,

besides just staying or becoming Speaker.

If there was ever a time to fight with \$33 trillion in national debt, a \$2 trillion deficit this year, 40-year high inflation, 20-year high interest rates, a downgraded credit rating, and for the first time in modern history and despite all the help of the media blaming Republicans in the House, the polls showing that the public was blaming Biden and the Democrats for an imminent shutdown. If not fight now, when would we fight? Now is and was the time.

With the Democrats driving the fiscal bus off the cliff at 100 miles an hour, we cannot simply be content to be the party that slows it down to 95 just so we can sit in the front seat and wear the captain's hat.

Our current debt and our spending trajectory is unsustainable. We need a Speaker, ideally somebody who doesn't want to be Speaker and hasn't pursued that at all costs for his entire adult life, who will meet the moment and do everything possible to fight for the country.

A red line was crossed for me, I regret, on Saturday, and so it is with regret that I must vote against the motion to table, as I did, and vote to vacate the Chair.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I share one thing in common with my friend from Virginia. This is a very sad day and certainly a day I never expected to have to live through.

I think, broadly speaking, as I look across this floor, you can divide Members into three groups. I am very happy to be in the first group, the overwhelming majority of my party who supports the Speaker that we elected.

We are proud of the leadership he has shown. We are proud of the manner in which he has been willing to work with everybody in our Conference, and I believe in this Chamber.

There is a second group, a small group. Honestly, they are willing to plunge this body into chaos and this country into uncertainty for reasons that only they really understand. I certainly don't.

Then there are friends on the other side—I mean friends, honestly, with great sincerity—I have a lot of friends over there, and I recognize that my friends on the other side have a very complex set of partisan, personal, and political calculations to make.

I certainly wouldn't presume to give them any advice about that, but I would say think long and hard before you plunge us into chaos because that is where we are headed if we vacate the speakership.

I personally think there are really three reasons why we have come to this point, and that is because at each three of these critical minutes, the Speaker did the right thing.

First, there was a Speaker vote. He got 85 percent of the vote in our Conference; 90 percent of the vote from Republicans on this floor.

Yet, we had a small group that decided no, they would dictate what they want. He didn't let that happen. He fought. Now, he fought for himself, but he fought for 90 percent of us too that wanted him to be the Speaker, and I appreciate that.

Then, of course, we had the debt ceiling deal. Nobody here thought he could pass a bill. Nobody in America thought he could pass a bill.

He did what Speakers are supposed to do. He passed the bill. Then he sat down and negotiated with a Democratic President and came back with a good deal, a deal that will limit spending. He did the right thing.

Finally, last Saturday on this floor, we were on the verge of a government shutdown, a government shutdown that the vast majority of Members in this Chamber did not want, a substantial majority on my side and an overwhelming majority on the Democrat side.

□ 1500

He put his political neck on the line, knowing this day was coming, to do the right thing—the right thing for the country without a doubt. My friends and I agree on that, whether or not we agree on the Speaker. He did the right thing. He did the right thing for this institution. He showed it could function in a time of crisis. Finally, he did the right thing for our party. He made sure that we could continue to negotiate and achieve some of the very objectives my friend from Virginia laid out, and achieve them in divided government, which calls for some degree of give-and-take.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of this Speaker. I am very proud to stand behind him. Tomorrow morning, whether I win or lose, I am going to be pretty proud of the people I fought with and I am going to be extraordinarily proud of the person I fought for, the Speaker of the House, KEVIN MCCARTHY.

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

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, my friend from Oklahoma says that my colleagues and I who don't support KEVIN MCCARTHY would plunge the House and the country into chaos. Chaos is Speaker MCCARTHY. Chaos is somebody who we cannot trust with their word.

The one thing that the White House, House Democrats, and many of us on the conservative side of the Republican caucus would argue is that the thing we have in common, KEVIN MCCARTHY said something to all of us at one point or another that he didn't really mean and never intended to live up to.

I don't think voting against KEVIN MCCARTHY is chaos. I think \$33 trillion in debt is chaos. I think that facing a \$2.2 trillion annual deficit is chaos. I think that not passing single-subject spending bills is chaos. I think the fact that we have been governed in this country since the mid-1990s by continuing resolution and omnibus is

chaos. The way to liberate ourselves from that is a series of reforms to this body that I would hope would outlast Speaker MCCARTHY's time here, would outlast my time here, and would outlast either of our majorities.

Mr. Speaker, these are reforms that I have heard some of the most conservative Members of this body fight for and some of the reforms that we have been battling for that I have even heard those in the Democratic Caucus say would be worthy and helpful to the House—like open amendments and understanding what the budget is.

We have been out of compliance with budget laws for most of my life and most of many of your lives. By the way, if we did those things, if we had single-subject bills, if we had an understanding on the top line, if we had open amendments, if we had trust and honesty and understanding, there would be times when my conservative colleagues and I would lose. There might be a few times when we would win. There would be times when we would form partnerships that might otherwise not be really predictable in the American body politic, but the American people would see us legislating.

These last few days, we have suspended the momentum that we had established the week earlier when we were bringing bills to the floor, voting on them, and staying late at night working hard. That is what the American people expect. It is something Speaker MCCARTHY hasn't delivered. That is why I moved to vacate the Chair.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER), my very good friend.

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, KEVIN MCCARTHY has earned this. Under Speaker MCCARTHY's leadership, our House Republican majority has actually defied all odds and overperformed expectations again and again and again.

It all started with the Speaker's race when our Speaker, KEVIN MCCARTHY, showed the American people how he would never give up. It carried over into the Speaker spearheading a Rules package to create the most transparent, Member-driven legislative process that I have ever seen since I have been here.

Since then, Speaker MCCARTHY's Republican majority has been successful in bringing common sense back to our Nation's capital by passing legislation to affirm a parents' right to be involved in their child's education, bolster American energy production, fully fund veterans' care and benefits, fight back against the regulatory state, and continue delivering on our promise to rein in Democrats' reckless spending by passing fiscally responsible appropriations bills.

We have also achieved historic conservative wins like passing the strongest border security legislation in history, passing the first Republican-only NDAA in history, and passing the first Republican-only State and Foreign Operations appropriations bill.

So many Americans are better off because of KEVIN MCCARTHY's leadership: American families, jobs creators, entrepreneurs, servicemembers, law enforcement officers, and the list goes on and on. These are just a few of our House Republican majority successes.

Make no mistake, we need KEVIN MCCARTHY to remain Speaker if we are going to stay focused on our mission of delivering commonsense wins for the American people. We have shown Americans what success looks like when we come together as a team.

Now it is time for us to stand together stronger than ever so we can get back to the work our majority was elected to do.

I am proud to support the Speaker as we continue championing conservative priorities that will put our country on a better path. Mr. Speaker, I thank Speaker MCCARTHY.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, the opening line of my colleague's speech was that Speaker MCCARTHY always overperforms expectations, but after tweeting "bring it" and after engaging in profane-laced tirades at House Conference, he just lost a motion to table. I wouldn't necessarily consider that overperforming expectations.

Time and again, I have heard my colleagues say: Well, he deserves it because he went through a tough Speaker contest. Let me let everyone know, he prevailed in that Speaker contest because he made an agreement to fulfill certain commitments to make this an open and honest process, and he has failed to meet those commitments. That is why we are here.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN), my very good friend.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 3 we said the 118th Congress is about three things: pass the bills that need passed, do the oversight work that needs to be done, and stop the inevitable omnibus that comes from the United States Senate right before the holidays.

KEVIN MCCARTHY has been rock-solid on all three. We have passed the bills we told the American people we would pass: the 87,000 IRS agents, that bill passed; Parents Bill of Rights, that bill passed; energy legislation, passed; border security immigration enforcement legislation, the strongest bill ever to pass the Congress, passed earlier this year.

We have done what we told them we were going to do. We can't help that the Senate won't take up those good commonsense bills. They will have to answer to the American people come election day.

Oversight. We have done the oversight that we are supposed to do. Because of our oversight, we know that parents were targeted by the Department of Justice. Because of our oversight, we know that 51 former intel officials misled the country weeks before the most important election we have.

Mr. Speaker, because of our oversight, the Disinformation Governance Board at the Department of Homeland Security is gone. Because of our oversight, the memo attacking pro-life Catholics has been rescinded. Because of over oversight, unannounced visits to Americans' homes by the Internal Revenue Service has stopped. That happened under Speaker MCCARTHY.

On the third one on this side, we know there is a big, old, ugly bill coming at the end of the year with all kinds of spending and garbage in it. We are still in that fight. Frankly, to Mr. GAETZ' point, we don't know how that one is going to shake out.

We do know this: On Saturday, we didn't take the Senate's bill. The Senate tried to send it over and shove it down our throats on Saturday, but we didn't take that bill. The Speaker was in a tough position.

There were five options on the table last week. Option one was to send a long-term CR over there that would have leveraged the 1 percent cut—something a bunch of us voted for, both parties. We couldn't get the votes for that one.

The second option was to focus on the one issue the country is now completely focused on, the border issue. We couldn't get the votes for that one either. When the Senate tried to send us that bill, he said "no" to it.

Mr. Speaker, I think the Speaker has kept his word. I know my colleagues and friends are saying different, but I think he has kept his word on those three things that we talked about on January 3 and, frankly, that entire week.

Mr. Speaker, he has kept his word, and I think we should keep him as Speaker.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, the problem with my friend from Ohio's argument is that many of the bills he referenced as having passed are not law. We are on a fast track to an omnibus bill, and it is difficult to champion oversight when House Republicans haven't even sent a subpoena to Hunter Biden. It is hard to make the argument that oversight is the reason to continue when it sort of looks like failure theater.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, this is a serious time. My mind immediately goes to the young deputy from Cochise County who 2 nights ago, while trying to apprehend a runaway vehicle smuggling humans across the border, suffered major injuries. He was transported to Pima County where he is in a Tucson hospital fighting for his life.

I am talking about a border that remains wide open where drugs come through. The Tucson sector has the most got-aways known and unknown of any sector along the border. There are terrorists coming in, people conducting criminal conduct coming in, criminal gang members, human smugglers, and sex traffickers. They are coming across our border to the tune of hundreds of thousands every month.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleagues and their position, but I would suggest something: I don't think you can just skip to last weekend and say, oh, my goodness, a CR came out last weekend on Saturday. I think we need to go back to January.

I will say this. This body came together on the Republican side and we passed a good border security piece of legislation, H.R. 2. That is good.

Last week we passed the DHS bill and the DOD bills which had funding for our CBP, ICE, military leaders, and military men and women. Why were we successful in doing that? What happened to motivate us to get there?

Well, for one thing, we didn't bother to pass the 12 appropriations bills as required under the Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974. We didn't do it. Do you know how many times that has not been done?

That has not been done 25 years in a row.

Do you know how many CRs this body has passed in that same period of time?

It is 130.

Do you know what that gets you?

A \$2 trillion-plus structural deficit like we had in fiscal year 2023.

Do you know what that leads you to?

A \$33 trillion national debt, which is where we sit today. It leads you to somewhere north of \$700 billion in interest payments.

Do you know why that happened?

Because this body is entrenched in a suboptimal path and refuses to leave it. It refuses to leave that path. You cannot change if you are unwilling to change. We had every opportunity to change. We were promised change.

We were promised we were going to go ahead, and we were going to get those 12 bills done. If we got those 12 bills done—do you know why you do 12 bills?

Because it allows you to reduce spending and get rid of wasteful duplicative programs. It allows you to set an agenda to restore fiscal sanity. We chose to not do it again. We were promised we would do it. That is why at the end some people said: We will vote present. We will go ahead. We are going to put our trust in Mr. MCCARTHY to become the Speaker. That didn't happen. I suspected that would be the case. That was my struggle. That was my struggle last November and December. I iterated it to this body, our Conference anyway.

When we got to the debt ceiling, again, that seemed to spring upon everybody like a surprise. When that happened, I was in there for some of those

negotiations on where that number would be, and I was astonished how that \$1.5 trillion number was negotiated. Unbelievable. Unbelievable.

□ 1515

However, I will tell you this: To his credit, the Speaker told us one thing that I believe to be true. He said that is basically the ante in a poker game. You can sit down at the table.

I told my colleagues who supported that: That \$1.5 trillion in 8 months that you are willing to raise the debt ceiling, that is the opening marker.

Indeed, it was. Now, projections are many trillion dollars above that.

Yes, I think it is time to make a change. I am not the only one, and thus, it is somber. But what have we failed to accomplish? Why didn't we get this stuff done?

When we are campaigning, we are talking about an extension of the debt ceiling to January 2025.

We are talking about additional Ukraine funding. Maybe that is good in your districts. Maybe it is not. That money is not offset. We are not paying for it. We haven't designated how we are going to pay for that—the same with the disaster package.

The IRS remains 80 percent increased. I could go down the list, but I will just tell you why this happens. When you don't do your 12 budget bills and you rely ultimately on a CR—and I will get to the calendar in a second—what happens is, you cannot leverage this administration to actually enforce the border laws that you need to have enforced.

This is a lawless Biden regime. They will not enforce border laws. We can pass them until we are blue in the face, but until you leverage the budget and the spending, you will not see enforcement by this administration.

Now, take a look at the calendar that we were just provided last week. We are supposed to finish our 12 bills by November 3. By November 17 is when we are supposed to see that the conference committees have come together, both sides, and we have resolved this. I don't believe that that is going to happen.

It wasn't going to happen before. You were betting on the come again. At some point, I would urge you to stop betting on the come and bet on the reality. That is why I can't support the Speaker any longer, and I will be voting for the motion to vacate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN), my very good friend.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Selah, s-e-l-a-h, selah. This unique word, scattered throughout the Psalms, signals to the reader to pause, reflect, consider, and maybe take a deep breath before moving on.

Psalms use selah to emphasize the significance of a statement. For exam-

ple, King David wrote: "Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, the God who is our salvation. Selah." That is a profound statement with huge implications. It deserves more than a cursory consideration.

Within the next hour, this House will vote "yea" or "nay" to vacate the Speaker's chair, a profound action with huge implications. This was last tried in 1910. Joseph Cannon won the vote. One hundred thirteen years later, my office is in the Cannon Office Building, and Uncle Joe Cannon's statue sits just outside this Chamber.

No living human has taken the vote we are about to take. It deserves that we pause and reflect, that we consider deeply the ramifications of our actions.

To my fellow Republicans who would consider voting "yes" to removing our Republican Speaker, please pause and ask yourself two questions: Will your "yes" vote make America stronger? Will your "yes" vote strengthen conservative policies?

If you believe "yes" is the right vote, please stand before this body and the American people and articulate your plan—not your grievances or your wishes, your plan. Convince the vast majority of the Republican Conference that strongly disagrees with you to follow you.

If you cannot do that, which you have failed to do so far, then voting "yes" is, at the least, a disruptive overreaction. In reality, it is selfish, bad for conservative policies, and bad for America.

That is why I strongly support Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY and why, without hesitation or reservation, I will vote "no" on this disastrous resolution.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, there is nothing selfish about wanting a Speaker of the House who tells the truth. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE), my good friend and fellow member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, as the only still-serving coauthor and cosponsor of the motion to vacate Speaker Boehner, I can tell you this motion to vacate is a terrible idea. As the only Member who is serving here who took every chance to vote against Speaker Boehner and to vote against Speaker Ryan, I can tell you that this Chamber has been run better, more conservatively, and more transparently under Mr. MCCARTHY than any other Speaker that I have served under.

As a member of the Rules Committee, one of three conservatives who was placed there out of trust—the Speaker gave us a blocking position by putting three of us on there to keep an eye on the Rules Committee, to make sure the process was fair and even—I can tell you it has been fair and even. None of us are voting against the Speaker today.

Regular order is at odds with predetermined outcomes. Yet, the Speaker

is being accused of not holding to regular order and predetermined outcomes at the same time. It is not possible. You cannot be for both at the same time.

I was a party to the January agreement, and I can tell you that there were promises in there, but there was never a promise for an outcome. There was never a promise that you could force Joe Biden to sign something. There was only the promise that we would try, and try we have. We have tried in the Rules Committee. We have tried on the floor. We have been trying since this summer.

There is enough blame to go around for why we don't have 12 bills, but part of it was a relitigation of the debt limit deal.

By the way, there was no promise on the debt limit deal. There were no conditions on that in January—zero—whatsoever. I was in the room for that.

The 12 bills were delayed over what? \$100 billion. That is a lot of money, but it is nothing compared to the \$2 trillion that I came here to object to when Speaker PELOSI and President Trump pushed that bill through.

We have had over 500 amendments. Listen, this is a referendum on this institution. We have tried regular order. Speaker MCCARTHY has tried regular order. If regular order fails today, if you vote to vacate the Speaker, no one is going to try again. This institution will fail. Please do not vacate the Speaker.

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

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, if there was ever a time for sobriety, wisdom, and caution in this House, it is right now.

If this motion carries, the House will be paralyzed. We can expect week after week of fruitless ballots while no other business can be conducted. The Democrats will revel in Republican dysfunction, and the public will rightly be repulsed. It will end when the Democrats are able to enlist a rump caucus of Republicans to join a coalition to end the impasse.

This House will shift dramatically to the left and will effectively end the Republican House majority that the voters elected in 2022. This, in turn, will neutralize the only counterweight in our elected government to the woke left's control of the Senate and the White House at a time when their policies are destroying our economy and have opened our borders to invasion.

There are turning points in history whose significance is only realized by the events that they unleash. This is one of those times. We are at the precipice. There are only minutes left to come to our senses and realize the grave danger our country is in at this moment. Dear God, grant us the wisdom to see it and to save our country from it.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, there is nothing sober, wise, or cautious about the path we are on. We are on a path to financial ruin if this House does not take a different posture, a different procedure, and yield toward different outcomes and a better future. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I stand before my colleagues and the Nation as a proud Representative of the great State of Florida. I truly am beyond blessed to represent the paradise that is Miami-Dade County and the Florida Keys. I am beyond proud to represent my community before this Congress, to stand with a leader who has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to our country and to the principles that define us as Americans, KEVIN MCCARTHY.

Today is historic for a lot of reasons. For one thing, this is the first time in over 100 years that this has been attempted, but it is also because we are part of a Congress with historically tight majorities for the Republicans in the House and the Democrats in the Senate, and we have a Democratic White House. Divided government is what we have.

The need to negotiate to find solutions to the issues facing this country, that is a reflection of the principles that are uniquely American, principles that make this country exceptional. They are principles that allowed me, an exile who came here from Cuba, fleeing Communist Cuba, to serve in this very institution.

I wasn't born here, but everything that I am, everything that I ever will be, is thanks to America. The best part about it is that my story, the story of the community I am so proud to represent, and the story of many in this body is that we are not the exception in America. We are the rule. That is the America that KEVIN MCCARTHY has fought for his entire career. KEVIN MCCARTHY is a champion for the American Dream, and he has proved it as our Speaker.

Thomas Jefferson once said: I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the guise of taking care of them.

Let's keep KEVIN MCCARTHY as our Speaker. He is a great man, a great leader, and a great Speaker.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to my remaining time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 9¼ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. HINSON), my very good friend.

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our Speaker, KEVIN MCCARTHY.

Let's be very clear here. We would not have a House Republican majority

without the relentless efforts of this man, our Speaker.

Under his leadership, Joe Biden's policies have had a check and balance. His policies have created a horrific border crisis—10,000 illegal immigrants a day surging across our border. Under Speaker MCCARTHY, Republicans have passed legislation to secure our border.

Joe Biden has done everything to squash American energy, selling our oil reserves to China. Under Speaker MCCARTHY, Republicans have passed legislation to unleash American energy dominance.

Joe Biden has spent taxpayer dollars like there is no tomorrow. Under Speaker MCCARTHY, we have returned to passing single-subject appropriations bills and ending the status quo of omnibus spending.

One of the most valuable pieces of advice that I received was from KEVIN MCCARTHY when I got here to D.C. He told me to separate the signal from the noise. The noise is those who are causing chaos for their own personal benefit while ignoring the needs of their constituents and this country, grinding our work here to a halt. The signal is the many accomplishments that we have delivered for the American people with Speaker MCCARTHY at the helm. The signal is the failures coming out of the White House time and time again. The signal is the work that we must do today and going forward to save our country for my kids and yours.

My colleagues here today have a choice: Be a chaos agent or get back to work. I call on my colleagues: Let's separate the signal from the noise. Let's support our Speaker, KEVIN MCCARTHY, so we can get back to work for the American people.

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

I think I have caught the signal, too. The signal is for \$33 trillion in debt, facing \$2.2 trillion annual deficits. Our fellow Americans may be watching and wondering, how does that happen? How does the greatest country in the world have a process so broken that it would be laughed out of the rooms in the halls of the State legislatures where many of us come from?

□ 1530

Here is how it works. The law says we are supposed to have the very single-subject spending bills that my colleague referenced in the summer; that we are supposed to have that and move it. But there is a dirty little secret in this town, and that is, if you delay, if you hold the bills, if you make multiple contradictory promises—as Speaker MCCARTHY has done—and you back everybody up against shutdown politics, well, nobody wants to shut the government down. No one cheers for a shutdown and, of course, when people are backed up against shutdown politics, the decision calculus changes.

So year after year, decade after decade, we break the law, and we do the same thing. We pass a continuing reso-

lution, then we pass another continuing resolution, and then it is either another continuing resolution or an omnibus bill or a series of minibuses that lump these disparate things together.

The American people want all of us to take votes on single-subject matters. They don't want to see these things all mushed together and logrolled. It was concerning to me to hear of a secret deal on Ukraine funding that would have logrolled more money with Ukraine with our southern border.

Now, how offensive is that to our Customs and Border Patrol, to our ICE, to the people that are suffering as a consequence of our border that some of my colleagues are only willing to stand up and fight for our border if they can send billions to Ukraine to fund their border, too?

Well, I have had enough of that, and that is why I brought this motion to vacate.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), our distinguished majority leader and my good friend.

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

When we go back to January, as many people have, we knew that it was going to be a narrow majority. We also knew that it wasn't going to be easy. How many of us came here because we thought this job was going to be easy? How many of us thought the task ahead of us to address the problems of this country was going to be easy?

One thing we did know is that if we were going to finally start confronting problems that had been ignored for years and years and years, we had to change the way this place worked, and one thing Speaker MCCARTHY embraced from day one is to start making those kinds of changes to this institution, opening up the process, allowing Members to be more engaged, having amendments come to the floor, single-subject bills, doing appropriations bills.

Yes, making that happen overnight is not something that happens automatically, but it started to happen, and we are now seeing the fruits of it. Just last week, we had four different appropriations bills on this House floor, four different ones. Now, those bills took weeks and weeks to finally get to the floor, going through an open committee process, hundreds of amendments, each one of them where Republicans and Democrats could bring their ideas.

We debated those bills on the floor, some until after midnight where Members could actually participate in the process. This has been a broken process for a long time, but it is a process where we, if we are going to confront the problems that families are facing, we need to resolve our differences inside this House Chamber before we can then go and fight for those families who are struggling. Every single day

across America families are struggling with real problems that we are going to have to get back to solving.

Those problems are real for them. It is inflation. It is the economy. It is high energy costs. It is an open southern border that doesn't just affect the border States. It is affecting every State—Republican districts, Democrat districts. Everybody knows it, and it can be ignored by the White House, but this House is the only body that started to take action with H.R. 2 and then with the border bill last week. Plus, with the action we took last week, over 70 percent of government funding passed out of the House, however everybody voted, Republican or Democrat.

This House passed funding for over 70 percent of the Federal Government's operation, and it is sitting over in the Senate where they passed zero, and we are going to beat each other up and talk about our internal processes and we need to get our internal processes working better, but so does that other body over there and so does the White House.

Everybody in this town needs to be engaged in addressing these problems, but if we don't start here and if we don't focus these next 45 days—because that is what we have got in front of us, we have got two bills this week, we have got two more appropriations bills next week, and if we are going to be confronting those, we have got to stay focused on our mission.

What the other side does, let's continue to put pressure on them, but we also need to put pressure on ourselves to do our job. Speaker MCCARTHY has been leading at the top of the level to make sure that we have the tools to do our jobs in a different way than the House has done it before.

This House is going to have to continue to make those changes, but the American people sent us here to confront those problems. We are finally starting to. This isn't the time to slow that process down. We need to keep doing our work. We need to keep fighting for those families who are struggling, but so does the Senate and so does the White House, as well.

Let's keep doing this work that we were sent here to do.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I agree with everything that the majority leader said in those remarks, except one thing. It is astonishing to hear any colleague give Speaker MCCARTHY credit for moving on to the single-subject appropriations bills.

As you heard my colleague Mr. BIGGS say, that was never the plan from Speaker MCCARTHY. The week before we moved on to those single-subject appropriations bills, the plan was another CR. He pitched a CR. They tried to get us to vote for a CR, and a brave few said we are done governing by continuing resolution. We are here to eulogize the era of the continuing resolution. We will not do it. We will not pass it.

These bills can go. The spending may rise and fall as the years pass, but the notion that we are going to lump in the Department of Education and the Department of Labor with our military and our troops and our Border Patrol is fundamentally unserious, and I would suggest chaotic.

We cannot do that. It was only because we forced that to happen. By the way, if we continue with Speaker MCCARTHY, the appropriations process will go right back to what he wanted it to go back to—just a sideshow, just a puppet show, just something to keep the hamsters on the hamster wheel as they continue to back people up against a calendar, centralize power with the lobbyists and special interests that move all kinds of money through the leadership. That is how they get their way, and that is why the American people have been getting screwed decade after decade. I am not going to tolerate it anymore without a fight.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MIKE GARCIA), my very good friend and fellow member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to recalibrate our minds on what is actually happening here today.

This proceeding looks important. It feels consequential, but let's look at what else is happening across America.

Today, about 300 Americans will die from fentanyl poisoning. Today, about 11,000 people will illegally penetrate our borders. Today's debt is approaching \$34 trillion. Today's mortgage rates just hit a 25-year high now approaching 8 percent. Our energy prices are again at backbreaking highs with gas approaching \$8 a gallon in my district. Today, China and the CCP grow stronger with an intent to go to war by 2027, and our military is experiencing record-low retention and record-low recruitment.

This is the reality of today for 335 million Americans under President Joe Biden. It is a dark and scary reality. This Republican majority here today in the House is the only firewall against the damaging far-left policies of the Biden administration.

The single-subject appropriations bills that we were supposed to be voting on this week will literally fight to reverse the darkness of these realities and fight inflation, cut spending, secure our border, while enhancing our Nation's security and investing in our soldiers at a meaningful level.

Today, this body filled with people in fancy suits led by a few Republicans who are running with scissors and supported by Democrats who have personal issues with the Speaker, have uncertain intentions and even more uncertain goals, and they have decided to make today about drama. Today is not about solving problems and helping our constituents but about drama.

We need to be the no-drama option for America—this party, this majority. I fear that this self-inflicted drama of today jeopardizes our majority and by definition removes the last layer of defense protecting America from this Biden administration.

Let's dispense with the drama, do our jobs, and move on with defending this beautiful country.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I am here to solve problems, too, but we have decade after decade of history showing us that you don't solve any problems with continuing resolutions and omnibus bills. That creates more problems, more debt, more inflation, more pain for American families.

So the way to solve problems is to break the fever dream of governing by continuing resolution and omnibus bills and instead return to the very single-subject spending bills that we will only get if my resolution passes to vacate Speaker MCCARTHY.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY).

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, every step of the way, Speaker MCCARTHY has been doubted.

After the first Speaker vote, he was mocked, right? After 15, they called him Speaker, and even then it was the media and the left that mocked him.

With the narrowest Republican majority in a generation, what did we achieve? We brought the President to the table when he stubbornly said for 100 days he would not negotiate on the debt ceiling. I took him at his word.

The Speaker said, no, we will get him to the table, and sure enough, we did. The result: The most conservative spending package we have seen in generations, the largest spending cuts year over year that any Congress has passed. Conservative outcomes.

I understand your position on the left. I understand that.

But my friends on the right, why?

Then this past weekend, I understand the frustration on the left at what happened on the continuing resolution, but why would we have conservatives object to that? Why would we have House Members object to that?

We rolled the Senate. We never roll the Senate as a House. Moreover, we never roll the Senate to get less spending, and we got it this weekend, so I understand why the left is mad. What I don't understand is why some Republicans think that that is a bad thing.

The frustration for me today—I understand where the liberals are. I know you support the constitutional order except in a moment like this when you are questioned on that. I understand that. You can't be counted on in a moment like this with the state of the speakership.

For Republicans, why would we give up a conservative working majority for better outcomes and hand the keys over to the Democrats? Why would we do that?

With this record of success that we have seen KEVIN MCCARTHY and the Republican majority produce in a Washington run by Democrats, we are going to throw that away, resulting in more liberal outcomes, not more conservative ones. I understand why the left is where you are today. You don't like an effective conservative majority.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, it is lovely to hear from the principal architect of Mr. MCCARTHY's debt limit deal, but here is the reality: The only Republicans in America who believe that the debt limit deal was conservative are in this Chamber right now because all over America, Republicans think that when you negotiated that debt limit deal, they took your lunch money.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE).

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY.

Under his leadership and a very small, five-seat majority, House Republicans have achieved, contrary to popular belief, numerous victories. We passed the Parents Bill of Rights; the Lower Energy Costs Act to lower the cost of gasoline and restore American energy independence; the Fiscal Responsibility Act, which was one of the largest enacted cuts with enforceable spending caps in American history; and H.R. 2, the most conservative southern border security bill in history—all of this while fully funding our military and our Nation's veterans.

Let me be abundantly clear: Attempting to remove Speaker MCCARTHY will put this House in a stalemate and paralyze our ability to fight for our constituents and instead create a fight amongst one another.

We have 43 days to restore fiscal responsibility and advance conservative appropriations priorities, which is exactly what my colleagues have asked for. Instead, we are threatening any House proceedings.

□ 1545

This is an unnecessary distraction. Working together under the leadership of Speaker MCCARTHY is of the utmost importance.

Mr. Speaker, I stand and strongly support KEVIN MCCARTHY for Speaker of the House, and I encourage my Republican colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK), my very good friend, and our distinguished Conference leader.

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, anyone and everyone who knows KEVIN MCCARTHY, whether they are a friend or foe, knows that KEVIN MCCARTHY is a happy warrior. He is tireless. He has that uniquely American grit.

Under KEVIN's speakership, that lasted 15 rounds of him never giving up,

this Republican majority have exceeded all expectations:

We reopened the people's House.

We passed the strongest border security bill in our Nation's history.

We passed an energy plan to unleash American energy dominance.

We passed Defense bills to support our troops.

Under KEVIN's leadership, he has brought hundreds and hundreds of bipartisan Members of Congress to Israel, our greatest ally.

He elected the most diverse class of Republicans ever, with the largest number of Republican women ever in American history.

This boy from Bakersfield, he cares deeply about his constituents, his country, and the American people, and that includes each and every one of his colleagues.

He has been to our districts, toasted at our weddings, celebrated the birth of our children, mourned the loss of our loved ones, and has cheered us when we haven't believed in ourselves, which is why the Republicans strongly support Speaker MCCARTHY and are proud he is our Speaker.

Now more than ever, the Republicans must unify. The stakes are too high. We need to save our country, which is why this Conference is proud to strongly support KEVIN MCCARTHY as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

Mr. Speaker, I will just say that if this House of Representatives has exceeded all expectations, then we definitely need higher expectations.

While it is heartwarming and kind that the Speaker calls people on their birthday and visits their district and congratulates them on their children, please know this isn't a critique of the individual. It is a critique of the job. The job hasn't been done. We have had multiple contradictory promises.

It is quite something, for those of you keeping track at home, the last three speakers you have heard opposing my resolution all voted for the debt deal. So if you believe that the debt limit deal that Speaker MCCARTHY brought into law was a good thing, maybe you agree with their perspective.

I think the debt limit deal was a terrible deal, and it really was the original sin of the McCarthy speakership, and it is one of the reasons I seek to vacate the Chair now.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), my very good friend.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, we have been here for 8 months with one of the tightest majorities in modern history. Yet, look at the accomplishments of this majority, this conservative majority, with the majority of Republicans voting for:

The strongest border security in my lifetime.

Fighting against this incomprehensible energy policy that is driving up energy costs 40 percent, utility and gasoline payments, pushing Americans into energy poverty.

We passed legislation to unleash America's energy resources, pushing back this administration's brainless policies on energy.

We passed legislation to pull back, to stop spending, \$4.8 trillion, that—I want to make note—my friends that are carrying this motion to vacate opposed.

We passed legislation to streamline regulations permitting environmental laws for the first time in 40 years. Again, my friends here opposed.

We strengthened work requirements for welfare to get people back into the workforce. Again, my friends over here opposed.

I keep wondering, what is going on? Are we redefining what conservative is? What is going on in this country today? What is going on in this body?

We have FreedomWorks, Heritage, CHIP ROY and JIM JORDAN say something is conservative and these folks say it is not, and they are right.

All of a sudden, my phone keeps sending text messages, saying: Hey, give me money.

Look at that. Oh, look: Give me money. I filed a motion to vacate.

Using official actions, official actions to raise money; it is disgusting. It is what is disgusting about Washington.

Mr. Speaker, we have watched as these folks right here that have brought up this motion to vacate have refused to pay our military servicemembers, refused to pay them.

I would quote my delegation member, my Senator from Louisiana, JOHN KENNEDY. If we are not going to pay our servicemembers, if they are not going to be there to protect us, the next time someone invades America, "call a crackhead." Let me know how that works out.

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 Louisiana.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I have heard people talk about bad faith here. I have heard them make reference to this January agreement—my friends from Arizona, Virginia, and Florida.

Let me be crystal clear: Not a single one of them was in the room.

You know what? The Speaker didn't meet the targets of that January agreement, he exceeded them. The greatest savings in American history. The greatest savings in American history.

Mr. Speaker, this isn't about fundraising. This is about our country. It is about our children and our grandchildren.

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

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

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, we need to stand behind this majority. We need to stand behind the greatest Speaker in modern history that has delivered the best conservative wins for this country.

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

Mr. Speaker, my colleague says we have passed the strongest border bills in history. Well, guess what? Look at the border right now.

We didn't use sufficient leverage in the debt limit or in any other thing to actually get results on the border.

The border is a disaster; really something I don't think you are going to be campaigning on that you fixed the border.

Second, the gentleman said he streamlined regulations. What the gentleman from Louisiana doesn't tell you is that all of the regulatory reform he was just bragging about is waivable by the stroke of a pen of someone in the Biden White House.

Do you really think you have anything for that? It is a total joke.

Finally, the Welfare-to-Work that the gentleman from Louisiana said we have, the welfare programs that they said they streamlined with their Welfare-to-Work stuff, they are actually going to grow. While they did work requirements, they blew out those programs of expanded eligibility.

I am really glad my colleagues didn't put work requirements on Medicaid. It probably would have resulted in Medicaid expansion.

When it comes to how those raise money, I take no lecture on asking patriotic Americans to weigh in and contribute to this fight from those who would grovel and bend knee for the lobbyists and special interests who own our leadership, who have—oh, boo all you want—who have hollowed out this town and have borrowed against the future of our future generations.

I will be happy to fund my political operation through the work of hard-working Americans, \$10, \$20, and \$30 at a time. My colleagues can keep showing up at the lobbyists' fundraisers and see how that goes for you.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Once again, the Chair would admonish those speaking from the floor to direct their comments to the Chair.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining for each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma has 3 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Florida has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG), my great friend.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, let's be clear why we are here: Because the incentive structure in this town is completely broken.

We no longer value loyalty, integrity, confidence, or collaboration. In-

stead, we have descended to a place where clicks, TV hits, and the never-ending quest for the most mediocre taste of celebrity drives decisions and encourages juvenile behavior that is so far beneath this esteemed body.

KEVIN MCCARTHY has done more in 9 months to restore the people's House than any Speaker in decades. We have done regular order. We have had open amendments. Every single Member of this Chamber has the right, the ability, and the opportunity to be heard on the floor.

It has been messy. It has been raucous, and at times, it has been chaotic. God bless every minute of it, because democracy is supposed to be hard. The alternative is a closed-door process where 2,000-page bills come out of the Speaker's office at midnight and are forced to the floor the next morning.

KEVIN MCCARTHY has broken that cycle. That alone is enough for him to remain our Speaker, but that doesn't deliver his opponents what they crave the most: attention.

We shouldn't stand for it. I won't stand for it. I will stand here with our Speaker, with our leader, that the overwhelming majority of our Conference supports. You need to look no further than where the opponents are sitting today in this Chamber.

They are not over here. They are over there.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to face these challenges together. I say bring whatever comes next because we believe in the job our Speaker has done. We believe in his vision, and, most importantly, we are proud to call KEVIN MCCARTHY our friend and our Speaker of the House.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, to be clear, I tried to get one of the three podiums on the Republican side, and my colleagues wouldn't let me have them, so they sent me over here.

Mr. Speaker, you know what, I will make this argument at any desk in this building, from the well, from the Chair. I will make it on every street corner in this country that Washington must change.

We have to break the cycle. We have to break the fever. I would hope, truly, that the reforms that we are fighting for are reforms that would last and be embraced and that would democratize power in this institution beyond the privileged few who back us up against shutdown politics and Christmases and deadlines in order to achieve their objectives.

Mr. Speaker, high inflation is on the verge of bankrupting American families. Our economy is breaking in half. A typical American family can't afford to buy a House in 99 percent of U.S. counties. Inflation is stealing more than \$700 a month from working Americans; nearly \$9,000 a year.

KEVIN MCCARTHY is the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and he

has failed to take a stand where it matters; so if he won't, I will. I make no apologies for defending the right of every hardworking American to afford a decent life for themselves and their families, and we have a greater opportunity to do that and to build coalitions under new leadership.

We have to rip off the Band-Aid. We have to get back on a better course.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know how this vote is going to go. Usually when a vote comes to this floor, it is pretty pre-determined. This one, I am not so sure.

I am sure that we have made the right argument: that this place deserves single-subject spending bills; that we should have 72 hours to read a bill; that something that spends more than \$100 million shouldn't be put on the suspension agenda such that we can't amend it; and there shouldn't be secret side deals made on a continuing resolution to lump Ukraine in with border security.

That is not right for Ukraine or border security because it fails to give either of those issues the dignity that they would require.

We can return that dignity to this House. We can get back on a better path. We can have single-subject appropriation bills. We can set a budget, a budget top line. We haven't had a budget in this place since I was in high school.

Let's get a budget. Let's get our act together. Let's get on with it. Let's vacate the Chair, and let's get a better Speaker.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on adoption of the resolution.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 3 of rule XX, the Chair directs the Clerk to conduct the vote by a call of the roll.

The Clerk will call the roll alphabetically by surname.

The following is the result of the vote, and there were—yeas 216, nays 210, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 519]

YEAS—216

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Adams | Blumenauer | Carbajal |
| Aguilar | Blunt Rochester | Cárdenas |
| Allred | Bonamici | Carson |
| Auchincloss | Bowman | Carter (LA) |
| Balint | Boyle (PA) | Cartwright |
| Barragán | Brown | Casar |
| Beatty | Brownley | Case |
| Bera | Buck | Casten |
| Beyer | Budzinski | Castor (FL) |
| Biggs | Burchett | Castro (TX) |
| Bishop (GA) | Caraveo | |

| | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Cherfilus- | Jackson (NC) | Pingree | Ellzey | Kelly (MS) | Pfluger |
| McCormick | Jackson Lee | Pocan | Emmer | Kelly (PA) | Posey |
| Chu | Jacobs | Porter | Estes | Kiggans (VA) | Schenthaler |
| Clark (MA) | Jayapal | Pressley | Ezell | Kiley | Rodgers (WA) |
| Clarke (NY) | Jeffries | Quigley | Fallon | Kim (CA) | Rogers (AL) |
| Cleaver | Johnson (GA) | Ramirez | Feenstra | Kustoff | Rogers (KY) |
| Clyburn | Kamlager-Dove | Raskin | Ferguson | LaHood | Rose |
| Cohen | Kaptur | Rosendale | Finstad | LaLota | Rouzer |
| Connolly | Keating | Ross | Fischbach | LaMalfa | Roy |
| Correa | Kelly (IL) | Ruiz | Fitzgerald | Lamborn | Rutherford |
| Costa | Khanna | Ruppersberger | Fitzpatrick | Langworthy | Salazar |
| Courtney | Kildee | Ryan | Fleischmann | Latta | Santos |
| Craig | Kilmer | Salinas | Flood | LaTurner | Scalise |
| Crane | Kim (NJ) | Sánchez | Foxx | Lawler | Schweikert |
| Crockett | Krishnamoorthi | Sarbanes | Franklin, C. | Lee (FL) | Scott, Austin |
| Crow | Kuster | Scanlon | Scott | Lesko | Self |
| Cuellar | Landsman | Schakowsky | Fry | Letlow | Sessions |
| Davids (KS) | Larsen (WA) | Schiff | Fulcher | Loudermilk | Simpson |
| Davis (IL) | Larson (CT) | Schneider | Gallagher | Lucas | Smith (MO) |
| Davis (NC) | Lee (CA) | Scholten | Garbarino | Luetkemeyer | Smith (NE) |
| Dean (PA) | Lee (NV) | Schrier | Garcia, Mike | Luttrell | Smith (NJ) |
| DeGette | Lee (PA) | Scott (VA) | Gimenez | Malliotakis | Smucker |
| DeLauro | Leger Fernandez | Scott, David | Gonzales, Tony | Mann | Spartz |
| DelBene | Levin | Sewell | Gosar | Massie | Stauber |
| Deluzio | Lieu | Sherman | Granger | Mast | Steel |
| DeSaulnier | Lofgren | Sherrill | Graves (LA) | McCarthy | Stefanik |
| Dingell | Lynch | Slotkin | Graves (MO) | McCaul | Steil |
| Doggett | Mace | Smith (WA) | Green (TN) | McClain | Steube |
| Escobar | Magaziner | Sorensen | Greene (GA) | McClintock | Strong |
| Eshoo | Manning | Soto | Griffith | McCormick | Tenney |
| Espallat | Matsui | Spanberger | Grothman | McHenry | Thompson (PA) |
| Evans | McBath | Stansbury | Guest | Meuser | Thompson (PA) |
| Fletcher | McClellan | Stanton | Guthrie | Miller (IL) | Tiffany |
| Foster | McCollum | Stevens | Hageman | Miller (OH) | Timmons |
| Foushee | McGarvey | Strickland | Harris | Miller (WV) | Turner |
| Frankel, Lois | McGovern | Swalwell | Harshbarger | Miller-Meeks | Valadao |
| Frost | Meeks | Takano | Hern | Mills | Van Drew |
| Gaetz | Menendez | Thanedar | Higgins (LA) | Molinaro | Van Dуйne |
| Galleo | Meng | Thompson (CA) | Hill | Moolenaar | Van Orden |
| Garamendi | Mfume | Thompson (MS) | Hinson | Mooney | Wagner |
| Garcia (IL) | Moore (WI) | Titus | Houchin | Moore (AL) | Walberg |
| Garcia (TX) | Morelle | Tlaib | Hudson | Moore (UT) | Waltz |
| Garcia, Robert | Moskowitz | Tokuda | Huizenga | Moran | Weber (TX) |
| Golden (ME) | Moulton | Tonko | Hunt | Murphy | Webster (FL) |
| Goldman (NY) | Mirman | Torres (CA) | Issa | Nehls | Wenstrup |
| Gomez | Mullin | Torres (NY) | Jackson (TX) | Newhouse | Westerman |
| Gonzalez, | Nadler | Trahan | James | Norman | Williams (NY) |
| Vicente | Napolitano | Trone | Johnson (LA) | Nunn (IA) | Williams (TX) |
| Good (VA) | Neal | Underwood | Johnson (OH) | Obernolte | Wilson (SC) |
| Gottheimer | Neguse | Vargas | Johnson (SD) | Ogles | Wittman |
| Green, Al (TX) | Nickel | Vasquez | Jordan | Owens | Womack |
| Grijalva | Norcross | Veasey | Joyce (OH) | Palmer | Yakym |
| Harder (CA) | Ocasio-Cortez | Velázquez | Joyce (PA) | Pence | Zinke |
| Hayes | Omar | Wasserman | Kean (NJ) | Perry | |
| Higgins (NY) | Pallone | Schultz | | | |
| Himes | Panetta | Waters | | | |
| Horsford | Pappas | Watson Coleman | Bush | Luna | Sykes |
| Houlahan | Pascrell | Wexton | Carter (TX) | Pelosi | |
| Hoyer | Payne | Wild | Gooden (TX) | Peltola | |
| Hoyle (OR) | Perez | Williams (GA) | | | |
| Huffman | Peters | Wilson (FL) | | | |
| Ivey | Pettersen | | | | |
| Jackson (IL) | Phillips | | | | |

NAYS—210

| | | |
|-----------|----------------|-------------|
| Aderholt | Bishop (NC) | Clyde |
| Alford | Boebert | Cole |
| Allen | Bost | Collins |
| Amodei | Brecheen | Comer |
| Armstrong | Buchanan | Crawford |
| Arrington | Bucshon | Crenshaw |
| Babin | Burgess | Curtis |
| Bacon | Burlison | D'Esposito |
| Baird | Calvert | Davidson |
| Balderson | Cammack | De La Cruz |
| Banks | Carey | DesJarlais |
| Barr | Carl | Diaz-Balart |
| Bean (FL) | Carter (GA) | Donalds |
| Bentz | Chavez-DeRemer | Duarte |
| Bergman | Ciscomani | Duncan |
| Bice | Cline | Dunn (FL) |
| Bilirakis | Cloud | Edwards |

“nay” on rollcall No. 517, “nay” on rollcall No. 518, and “yea” on rollcall No. 519.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Office of Speaker of the House of the United States House of Representatives is hereby declared vacant.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 3, 2023.

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: This is to notify you that the first name on the letter received by the Clerk, pursuant to clause 8(b)(3)(B) of rule I, is the Honorable Patrick T. McHenry of North Carolina.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCHENRY). Pursuant to clause 8(b)(3) of rule I, I will now act as Speaker pro tempore.

The Chair will inform the Members of the House of the following:

The Office of Speaker was rendered vacant pursuant to the adoption of H. Res. 757.

Upon a vacancy in the Office of Speaker, clause 8(b)(3) of rule I provides that the next Member on a list submitted by the Speaker pursuant to the rule acts as Speaker pro tempore until the election of a new Speaker, and bestows the authorities of the Office of Speaker upon the Speaker pro tempore to the extent necessary and appropriate to that end.

In the opinion of the Chair, prior to proceeding to the election of a Speaker, it would be prudent to first recess subject to the call of the Chair in order to allow the parties to meet in Caucus and Conference.

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 4 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

NOTICE

*Incomplete record of House proceedings.
Today's House proceedings will be continued once the House reconvenes.*