

AUTHORIZING REPRESENTATION BY THE SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL IN THE CASE OF JENNIFER GRAPPELL V. ALBERTO M. CARVALHO, ET AL.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 306, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 306) to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel in the case of Jennifer Grappell v. Alberto M. Carvalho, et al.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 306) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JULY 19, 2021

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, July 19; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senators CRUZ and LEE.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The Senator from Texas.

CUBA

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the protests we have seen erupt in Cuba over the past several days.

On Sunday, shouts of "libertad!"—freedom!—were heard in dozens of cities and towns all over Cuba as people took to the streets to protest the com-

munist government that has had a stranglehold on that nation for 62 years.

This socialist regime has tortured, killed, silenced, denied freedom, and driven into exile generations of Cubans, forcing many, including my family, to flee or to be murdered. It has cut off Cuba from the rest of the world. It has destroyed its economy so that, today, Cubans stand in long lines for food, for medicine, for basic supplies. They endure energy blackouts, and government officials can shut off their censored internet service on a whim—as they did on Sunday when the regime panicked about the protests.

This battle for freedom is personal to me. When Fulgencio Batista staged a coup in Cuba and became a brutal dictator in the 1950s, my father fought against his regime. My dad was imprisoned and tortured. His captors broke his nose and bashed in his front teeth so they were dangling from his mouth. My father fled Cuba—the country he had fought for and had been brutalized for trying to save—and in 1957, my father came to the United States. He went to Texas with \$100 sewn into his underwear. He had nothing. He attended the University of Texas on a student visa and got a job washing dishes, making 50 cents an hour.

In the summer of 1959, soon after Castro had taken over Cuba, my father returned to visit his family, and he was horrified by what he saw. It quickly became evident that Castro was even worse than Batista had been. My father's sister, my tia Sonia, was still there, and she became part of the counterrevolution against Castro. Like her brother, my tia Sonia was thrown in prison, and she was tortured by Castro's goons.

In growing up, my cousin Bibi and I used to sit at the feet of my dad and my tia Sonia and hear stories about their fight for freedom, hear their stories about the battling in Cuba just like the heroic protesters on the streets are doing today. The freedom of America was the dream that allowed them to endure the brutality of Cuba. America was and is a beacon of hope for all of those who, like them, have endured oppression, and that is why we saw so many protesters in Cuba who were flying American flags on Sunday—because the American flag is a symbol of hope in Havana, in Hong Kong, and all across the globe.

America must respond. Over the past few days, the world has seen that the American people stand squarely with the men and women of Cuba in their noble fight for liberty.

Worryingly, however, the Biden administration has stopped short of strong, clear support for the brave protesters who are marching in the street, and it has been reluctant to issue clear and unequivocal condemnation for the communist dictatorship that oppresses those people. In statement after statement, as protesters have swept into the streets—literally risking their lives to

stand for freedom—administration officials have issued lukewarm and guarded statements.

After being shamed into finally taking stronger positions, President Biden finally put out a statement, saying that the protesters were exercising their right to peaceful assembly, but even that is wrong. In Cuba, they have no right to peaceful assembly because the Cuban dictatorship is out there arresting the protesters right now. It is out there beating the protesters right now. It is out there imprisoning the protesters right now. They are speaking with great courage, and the communist dictatorship is doing everything it can to silence what they are saying.

The Biden administration has also said the protests are about COVID-19 vaccines. That, unfortunately, doesn't even pass the laugh test. Just this week, the White House Press Secretary said the protests were about misadministration in Cuba, mismanagement. Well, the last I checked, the protesters in the streets weren't chanting: "Manage better!" They were chanting: "Libertad!"—freedom! They were chanting: "Down with the dictatorship!"

America has a unique role in the world—a role to provide leadership, a role to speak the truth—and at times of inflection, at times when people are risking their lives for freedom, the leadership of America matters.

Here is what President Biden needs to say to the Cuban people: To the Cuban people, we stand with you. To the Cuban people, you are right that you have a right to liberty; you have a right to speech; you have a right to worship; you have a right to live your lives and raise your children and be free of oppression and torture and murder.

President Biden needs to go on to say: The communist dictatorship that oppresses you is evil—period, full stop.

In my Senate office, I have a large painting of President Ronald Reagan when he was standing in front of the Brandenburg Gate. Above the gate, in the style of the graffiti that was on the Berlin Wall, are the words: "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall." American leadership matters, and it is heard in the darkest recesses.

Some years ago, I sat down with Natan Sharansky, the famed Soviet dissident. He and I sat down together in Jerusalem, and he told me, when he was in a gulag in the Soviet Union, that prisoners would pass notes from cell to cell: Did you hear what Reagan said? "Evil empire," "ash heap of history," "tear down this wall."

Presidential silence is heard in Cuba, and Presidential clarity is heard in Cuba.

I want to close by reading a text that I got this week from my mom. My mom and our family are in communication with family friends still in Cuba.

Here is what a close friend of the family said: Things are much more serious than what is reported on TV. This friend of the family described that she has no food, which is the same for almost everyone. Yesterday, she had a bowl of thin soup—nothing more. She was asking for help for the first time. There is no way to get money to Cuba. Banks are closed. Five protesters were killed in Santiago. Radio stations are being taken over by protesters. The internet is shut down so there is no further contact available. Matanzas, where my father was born, is a hotspot for COVID, and it sounds as though desperate times are generating desperate measures.

To the people of Cuba, I want you to know your message is being heard; your bravery is being seen; and it is worth it. This is potentially an inflection point, and America should stand up and speak boldly on the side of freedom.

There is a reason those protesters carry our flags. There is a reason they look to America as a beacon of hope and freedom across the globe.

To the people of Cuba, we stand with you. You have a right to be free, and your courage is inspiring. We are inspired by you. As to the evil thugs who are on the street, brutalizing you, they, too, will end up in the ash heap of history. The oppression in Cuba will fall, and we will, once again, see “una cuba libre”—a free Cuba—thanks to the courage and heroism of the Cubans in the street.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

BUDGET

Mr. LEE. Madam President, for far too long, the Federal Government has simply been spending and borrowing far more money than it should. It has been borrowing and spending money that it doesn't have. Now, for individuals, for businesses, even for States and local governments, this kind of conduct is not just inadvisable, which it clearly is, but it is also impossible. I mean, sure, people can get away with it for a short period of time, but the laws of mathematics are very quickly able to catch up with them so that they can't do it.

The Federal Government is unique in this regard. There is something about the size of the U.S. economy, coupled with the status of the U.S. dollar as the world's reserve currency—a combination of factors—that has given the Federal Government this ability that is somewhat unique, you see, because it has access to essentially what amounts to a printing press in Washington, DC, that prints out more and more money with reckless abandon, more and more money in a way that would be impossible not just for any individual, any family, any business, or any nonprofit but also that most governments in the United States and the world could

never dream of. Yet this government has been able to get away with it because of these unique factors and unique features that exist here. So the Federal Government just spends more money as if the laws of mathematics did not apply.

Now, in recent history, the Federal Government has been spending something in the range of about \$4 trillion a year. Tragically—this is a massive sum of money, but, tragically, that has represented about \$1 trillion a year more than we bring in. So we have added to our debt at a rate of about \$1 trillion a year.

This is stunning, especially when you consider the fact that we have been at the top of an economic cycle over the last few years. We have not been in a state of a recession and we were spending this money. Even with a booming economy, we weren't able to bring our outlays down to match our revenue that was coming into the Federal Government. So it has been about \$4 trillion, more or less, over the last few years.

But last year, with COVID-19, we spent a total of \$6.6 trillion. That includes our COVID relief packages. This is an enormous volume of new, additional borrowed money on top of the trillion dollars a year or so that we were already spending, already borrowing; that we were already deciding to spend above and beyond what our revenues would allow us to spend.

And then now the Democrats have announced a plan to spend another \$3.5 trillion just this week. And on top of that, there is another trillion-dollar infrastructure package in the works. And earlier this year, there was a \$1.9 trillion package that was passed. And so all of this is occurring in a year when we already have a staggering \$28 trillion debt.

The reality is that the Federal Government does not itself feel the consequences of this; the people do. In other words, the Federal Government could get away with it because of this unique status that we have, the dollar being the world's reserve currency, the size of the U.S. economy. It has gotten away with it without adverse consequences that the Federal Government and its officers themselves feel directly.

It does, however, produce consequences. They are felt by the people. Now, we have known for a long time that this was presenting something of a threat to future generations; something that we knew would really come to haunt our children and our grandchildren and their children after them. We have always known this. But at the rate when we have accelerated our massive deficit spending and the degree to which we have extended it, this is no longer just a problem for the future. This, you see, is affecting us right now.

For a long time, I and others have talked about how it would affect our children and our grandchildren. And all this is still real—be a very real con-

sequence. They will still have to face that debt. They will still have to pay it back. It will still be unpleasant, but not just in the future. They are caught up with us already.

The problem is no longer generations away. It has now reached its hand into our wallets, into our families, and into our day-to-day lives.

So what happens when too many dollars are produced out of thin air, when we just print more money? I mean, I know there is an intermediate step there. Technically, it is borrowed money. The money that we don't have isn't just printed. It is—it is borrowed as the U.S. Treasury bills are sold. And we borrow that money knowing that we are going to have to pay it back later. But it has the effect of just printing more money.

When we just print more money, those dollars, which have now multiplied, they are still chasing, more or less, the same quantity of goods. And so what that means is that the same quantity of goods with more dollars results in each of those goods being able to command a higher price—just inflation.

When you dump more money into the economy, it doesn't make things easier for people; it just raises the cost.

Now, this hurts poor and middle-class Americans especially hard. It hurts especially hard those who are living on a fixed income, on a fixed wage or a fixed salary; those who aren't wealthy and don't have a large amount of money that they can use to invest to make sure that, as price inflation occurs, maybe they can make some money off of it too. This hurts the poor and middle-class American families the most, you see, because they have still got the same amount of money to spend, but everything is more costly. This isn't fair to them.

It is causing—our own government is causing the increase in cost that hard-working families across Utah and throughout America are already feeling. Every day, as a result, it is getting harder to fill cupboards and refrigerators and bellies and gas tanks. Every day, it is getting more expensive to drive to work or to the doctor's office or to see your family and friends.

From the price of housing to cars, to food, we are seeing the general level of inflation increasing at a higher rate than we have seen in many, many years.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has produced data—the data for May that saw the biggest 12-month consumer price index increase in 13 years. This follows the April number, which was 4.2 percent higher than April of last year.

The data from May also showed that gasoline prices are up over 50 percent from last year; that used vehicles are, on average, costing 30 percent more over last year; and that food bought outside the home has seen a jump of 4 percent. Chicken prices are soaring. Boneless, skinless chicken breasts are