

HIGHLIGHTING ISSUES WITH THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ROSS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, we may be starting a new year, but so far the problems remain the same. This week marks the 1-year anniversary of Joe Biden being sworn in as President of the United States, and, of course, also the 1-year anniversary of one-party, far-left Democrat rule in Washington.

This past year was one of unprecedented crises as a direct result. The American people face an economic crisis, an energy crisis, a border crisis, an education crisis, a crime crisis, a COVID-19 crisis, and a national security crisis as a direct result of Joe Biden and congressional Democrats' failed leadership and their far-left socialist agenda.

In this hour, a cross-section of my Republican colleagues will address and highlight these issues as we stand for the opposite policies, and we are very anxious to be returned to the majority so that we can solve these ongoing dilemmas.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman, my good friend right across the Sabine River, for yielding.

No President has ever had a worse first year in office than Joe Biden.

And sadly, his deteriorating 42 percent approval rating perfectly mirrors the deteriorating state of our country.

We are facing crises on nearly every front, and our Commander in Chief who, by the way, is responsible for creating each and every one of these crises, is doing absolutely nothing to stop them.

However, the most threatening of these concerns is still the unmitigated disaster that is raging on our southern border.

More than 1.7 million illegal alien apprehensions happened under Biden's watch last year, and those were just the ones that we caught.

Instead of securing our borders, this administration spent all of 2021 sweeping the rule of law under the rug and using the cover of darkness to fly thousands of unvetted and untested for COVID illegal aliens across the country to be released into our neighborhoods.

How many more innocent women and children need to be assaulted, raped, and trafficked?

How many more Americans need to overdose on Chinese fentanyl that is being smuggled across the border?

How many more terrorists need to be caught trying to infiltrate our Nation?

What level of threat do we need to reach to finally garner some action from this President?

Americans are tired of paying for this administration's ignorance and political games.

This is a new year, Mr. President. Use it wisely.

It is past time that you live up to the oath that you swore.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, there are so many crises it is hard for us to keep count.

I yield to my dear friend from the State of Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI).

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

This week, our Nation is marking a solemn anniversary, 49 years since the deadly Roe v. Wade decision.

For nearly half a century, pro-life Americans have been standing strong to defend precious human life and the most vulnerable among us.

Right now we are facing some tough challenges. Under the current one-party rule in Washington, Americans are witnessing unprecedented attacks on pro-life protections across the country.

Time and time again, I have come to this floor to oppose Democrats' radical antilife agenda.

As many times as it takes, I will stand here to reject the attacks on life, and I will vote "no" on taxpayer-funded services, including the wicked proposal to permit abortion on demand at any time bankrolled by the American people.

These are dark days in this country.

At the same time we have so much to be happy and hopeful for as we look at this new year.

The Supreme Court, including my fellow Hoosier, Justice Amy Coney Barrett, is currently considering the most significant challenge to Roe v. Wade since 1973.

This could be the final anniversary that we mark under Roe v. Wade.

For five decades, we have been in a long battle against abortion, and this is the time to restore the dignity of life and protect life once and for all.

As a pro-life lawmaker, I am proud to stand alongside millions of Americans in Indiana and across the country who believe in the inherent value of life.

Our enduring commitment to life and the truth will prevail.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, the gentlewoman is right, the sanctity of human life is one of the central principles that this country is founded upon, and it does get darkest before the dawn. There is hope on the horizon.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW).

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and thank him for his leadership.

The President's most important job is to lead, to lead and protect our country. Yet time and again, all we have seen from President Biden is a failure to lead.

Biden's handling of Afghanistan led to the death of 13 American service-members and left hundreds more abandoned. This was a failure to lead.

Biden's handling of the border has been a disaster with more than two million illegal immigrants being apprehended at our border. This was a failure to lead.

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Biden failed to shut down COVID-19 and has allowed more Americans to die from this disease, despite widespread access to vaccines. This was a failure to lead.

Inflation is at a 40-year high; supply chains are crippled; and labor shortages have hindered an economic recovery. This has been a failure to lead.

Soft-on-crime policy has resulted in 16 of America's largest cities suffering from new highs in homicide rates and a 115 percent increase in attacks against our law enforcement officials, all while President Biden and House Democrats demand to defund our police. This has been a failure to lead.

This is not the America I know. The America I know is strong, and it deserves a strong leader, not the worst President in our history, not one that continues time and again to fail to lead.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman. Those are not just Republican talking points. Politico had a story this morning. They asked Americans in a nationwide poll to give the President a letter grade, and 37 percent of Americans gave him an F—85 percent or more of Republicans, but also, they say, an alarming number of Democrats gave a D or an F grade.

So the gentleman is exactly right. It is a failure. An F-minus, says Mr. VAN DREW.

Madam Speaker, I yield to my good friend from the State of Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT).

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman. It is the great State of Tennessee.

Madam Speaker, for the last year, Joe Biden and the Democrats have completely controlled our government in Washington. Their first order of business when they took power was to ram through Congress almost \$2 trillion in Federal spending under the so-called American Rescue Plan.

When this bill became law last March, Democrats said it was necessary to fight the coronavirus. Ten months later, our country is still dealing with the same problems Democrats claimed their bill would solve.

COVID tests are sold out at drugstores, and testing centers have

hourlong lines. Not even KAMALA HARRIS can give a straight answer about when Americans will receive at-home test kits. Is it this week? Is it next week? Is it sometime in the future? I don't think she knows.

We have overwhelmed hospitals that are struggling to treat patients due to staffing shortages. Corrupt teachers' unions are forcing students out of the classroom and bullying parents. Businesses of all sizes and across industries cannot find enough workers to keep up with the demand.

Madam Speaker, the American Rescue Plan failed miserably to address or prevent these issues. That is because it mostly focused on funding liberal special interests instead of targeted pandemic relief.

This whole debacle confirmed two things: Congress cannot spend its way out of a problem, and Democrats will always use a crisis to advance their political agenda.

Joe Biden promised to shut down the coronavirus when he took office. One year later, all he shut down were America's hospitals and businesses.

Thank you, Vice Chairman JOHNSON, for your adequate and more-than-lack-luster leadership skills.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for keeping me humble.

Madam Speaker, we have just come straight to the floor from a Members and media roundtable on the border and crime crises, and he led that so ably. I am delighted to hear what he has to say in his 2 minutes.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Texas (Mr. PFLUGER).

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for yielding.

Madam Speaker, it is hard to pick the crisis to talk about because there are so many. I would like to talk about unity.

I was at the inauguration last year. I heard the President's speech. I heard him campaign. His message was centered on restoring unity to an angry Nation. He promised to bring us together.

Well, he has brought the American people together, that is for sure, because everyone now understands the full magnitude of the crises that we are going through. He has united the country in that fact alone.

One year ago, I want everyone to remember, we were not experiencing the inflation that we are, the highest rate in 40 years. We did not have foreign adversaries who were treading over our policies and looking at us as weak.

Right now, we have a border that is in complete chaos and complete crisis. It has only been 1 year under President Biden's reign, and our Nation is directionless from the masthead in the midst of chaos, not to mention that our international reputation and our influence have been squandered through policy failure after policy failure.

When you look at this poster right here, look at the energy crisis that we are dealing with, and Ukraine right now is in the midst of not knowing whether or not they are going to be invaded by the Russians. What a terrible position to be in.

The President has green-lighted Nord Stream. He failed to sanction the Nord Stream pipeline. The energy crisis that is going on in Eastern Europe right now, the fact that we are not strong around the world in our messaging to deter our enemies and to help our allies, is directly leading to this issue that we see in Ukraine right now. And do you know who is watching? China. China is watching this, and they are wondering whether or not Taiwan is going to be next.

We have to get back to a strong, firm understanding of law and order, the same discussion that we just had on the border crisis. We have to reassert our leadership to make sure that our country, the greatest Nation that this world has ever known, will choose to follow law and order.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for that keen insight that he gained faithfully serving our country in the military. I thank him for his service.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER), another gentleman who has served us so well on the front lines of law enforcement before he got to Congress.

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, I could speak for hours about this administration's multiple failures over the last year, but I only have a couple of minutes, so I will cover just inflation, one of them.

Since Joe Biden took office, inflation has risen every single month. Americans are paying more for just about everything while earning less in every paycheck.

This is not sustainable, and it didn't have to be this way. This administration is so out of touch with the average American that despite inflation reaching a 40-year high, they are still pushing for more reckless spending that will only make this crisis worse.

American families are paying substantially more for everyday products, from gasoline to groceries and to energy for heating their homes this winter, to heat their homes in northern Minnesota when it is 30-below for a week straight.

Make no mistake, inflation is a tax on us all, especially our working class and those on fixed incomes. It is no secret that we live in a very polarized nation right now, but there is one thing a strong majority of Americans agree on: Joe Biden's first year in office has been disastrous to the American people. We deserve better.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS).

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend from Louisiana for his great leadership.

Madam Speaker, over the past year, I spent time throughout Utah's Fourth District. I have heard from Utahns from all walks of life, and month after month, they have shared the same concerns: soaring inflation, skyrocketing prices, and decreasing wages.

That is no surprise because gas is up 49.6 percent. Used cars are up 37.3 percent. Gas utilities are up 24.1 percent. Meat, fish, and eggs are up 12.5 percent. Electricity is up 6.3 percent.

On top of this, as real wages have decreased 8 out of the last 11 months, our economy is still missing millions of prepandemic jobs, and employers are continuing to struggle with persistent labor shortages.

What is this administration doing to help? You can't make this up: dismissing inflation as high-class problems and transitory; adding to the national debt with money we don't have on programs we don't need; and, just last week, advocating to nuke a filibuster the President defended for decades to push through a radical Federal takeover of all elections.

Our economy should be thriving right now, but inaction, on purpose, by this administration has massively increased our national debt, which still sits at \$29 trillion, by the way; stifled growth; and financially crippled American families and small businesses.

We are closing out the first year of Biden's Presidency with the worst inflation of 40 years; open borders; emboldened adversaries; a botched withdrawal from Afghanistan; and a repeated push to increase the size, scope, and reach of the Federal Government.

This year, I encourage President Biden to start paying attention to the real needs of real Americans. Maybe then we will start seeing real results.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend. So well said, as always. I think one of the key words you said was purposeful. These crises are not happenstance. These are direct results of policy choices.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN), my good friend.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, so many areas to pick from in which we talk about the first year of this administration.

No country can exist if you don't have immigration laws, and I can't think of anywhere where the new administration is more of a change from the old.

We have gone through a situation in which about 25,000 people every year crossed our southern border, and now routinely over 75,000, tripling the amount of people who have come across our border.

That has received a lot of attention, but not enough attention has been received for the lack of people being pushed back across the border if they are caught here breaking crimes or otherwise.

In the first 6 months of 2020, about 93,000 people were kicked out. This

time around, it is about 18,000. So we have about another 70,000 people who we don't want in this country, primarily because they have broken the law. Under the Biden administration, we don't kick them out.

We have to also look at the carrot that they are giving people to come here in the Build Back Better bill, trying to give free college education to people who come here illegally. Every Democrat but one in this body voted for it, saying: Yes, absolutely. We not only want people to come here illegally, but we will give them free college education, free medical care.

Unbelievable.

Showing that the number one priority is to get people here illegally, they are not even giving tests for COVID, which says something or other. I mean, on the one hand, it is important that everybody even get a shot if they are hanging around Washington, D.C., but if you are coming across the southern border, we don't care. Unbelievable.

Quite a change in America compared to what it used to be, and it is going to take a lot of work when we get a new President to undo the huge amount of damage that has been done to the fabric of this country in the first 12 months of Joe Biden.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend. It is so well said. It is as if they are incentivizing lawlessness. That is exactly what we are seeing, and everybody knows it.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), my friend.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. JOHNSON. I appreciate this Special Order.

Of course, this week does mark the first year of the Biden administration. Unfortunately, it was one of unprecedented crisis. Indeed, it is a target-rich environment for us to talk about here tonight.

Democrats have controlled the executive branch and both Chambers of Congress, allowing them to pass, so far, \$2 trillion out of their \$9 trillion plans. This act has also caused the highest inflation in decades, hitting the middle-class and lower income class hardest in this country.

This year, under Democrat leadership, Americans are paying more for just about everything, from housing, clothes, food, and gas—especially in energy. On the way to the airport in California, it was \$5-plus, \$5.39 at one place. Incredible.

In the dead of winter, people are seeing the cost of heating their homes skyrocket. When you stop all sorts of development of energy in this country, you are not going to have the supply. That sends a signal to the whole market to raise prices, including the Biden administration telling OPEC overseas to go ahead and send us more while cutting off our own pipelines and further development on Federal lands.

This, of course, ripples through everything else in costs.

In my real life as a farmer, we are going to see our costs of energy—whether it is diesel fuel, gasoline, fertilizer—skyrocket. That is either going to have to be passed along to the consumer at the store or farmers go broke in this country. Small business owners face the same thing.

Everything is going up—more in costs, vaccine mandates, less employees. I mean, I wish we could paint a brighter picture and not have it appear to be a partisan one. It really isn't partisan. It is about having success as a country.

Unfortunately, the Biden administration doesn't seem to have a clue what that success would look like. Indeed, they are chasing their own mandates, putting us in a terrible position as a people and for the economy going forward. They need to change their thinking, or the voters need to change them out.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend. It is not partisanship. We are sharing the facts. He is exactly right.

I would encourage my colleagues—there are so many who want to speak, and it is a target-rich environment with so many crises. We are going to try to stick to 2 minutes on these yields.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER).

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, tomorrow will mark 1 year since President Biden's inauguration, and Americans are left asking: Are we better off under this administration?

Judging by his all-time low approval ratings, the answer for Americans is a resounding no. Everywhere you look, there is a crisis riddled with incompetence, division, and dysfunction.

At our southern border, Biden has allowed nearly 2 million illegal immigrants to enter our Nation, creating the worst border crisis in 30 years.

In the classroom, Biden has targeted parents and their role in education. His administration even lobbied for them to be called domestic terrorists.

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Madam Speaker, in our communities violent crime is at all-time highs. Last year, the murder rate was higher than at any point since 1996.

On the economy, Biden's mishandling of our Federal Government has created the highest inflation rate in 40 years. Bare shelves, high gas prices, and supply chain issues continue to dog this administration.

On the world stage, Biden botched our withdrawal from Afghanistan, surrendering to the Taliban and making America a laughingstock to our adversaries. All of this resulted in the deaths of 13 servicemembers, including one from my home State of Missouri.

Instead of addressing these issues, President Biden had doubled down on his far-left socialist policies, out-of-control spending, and incompetence. It is past time for a change. America deserves better. They need leadership that listens and fights for hardworking families, not against them.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to help lead the fight alongside my fellow Republicans to reverse course by unleashing our economy, securing our border, respecting parents, defending life and our foundational values, and providing for the common defense.

On this one-year anniversary commemorating the misery of the Biden administration, we commit ourselves to never stop fighting for what is right, to work harder than ever, and to never give up. America is depending on us.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE), home of the new national championship football team.

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, tomorrow marks the one-year anniversary of President Biden's inauguration. Many Americans have now endured 365 days of an absent administration, 52 weeks of policy failures, 12 months of utter turmoil, and a year of constant, crippling crises.

Earlier today a Rasmussen Poll revealed that 60 percent of the country considers the President's first year in office unsuccessful. Fifty percent said it was very unsuccessful, with one third of Democrats believing Biden's first year was a failure. All of this has contributed to his abysmal 33 percent rating, the lowest since Jimmy Carter.

Madam Speaker, in all sincerity, I didn't imagine this much damage could be done in just one year, but here we are, facing an economic crisis with hyperinflation, a supply chain crisis, a labor shortage crisis, a border crisis, a national security crisis, an energy crisis with incredible gas prices, an education crisis, a COVID crisis, a crime crisis, and an election integrity crisis with Democrats trying to push through election reforms that would federalize our election and eliminate voter ID. Ultimately, these all stem from a leadership crisis in the White House, a leadership crisis that has caused Americans unnecessary hardship.

Madam Speaker, as we enter the second year of the Biden administration's rule, the President has an important decision to make. Will he continue to sidestep from the crises he has created, destined to inflict more destruction? Or will he confront these crises head-on and implement successful solutions?

Mr. President, the American people demand successful solutions. They deserve successful solutions.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, President Biden ran his campaign on a message of unity. Since day one of his administration, he has been defined by the divisive policies that are the wrong

approach for Tennessee families and workers.

In 2021, we saw cartels take control of our southern border. We saw the worst inflation in decades. We saw Afghanistan fall into the hands of terrorists as we hastily and incompetently withdrew our forces from the country, leaving billions of dollars of modern military equipment and hundreds of Americans and Afghan allies behind. Finally, we saw abusive government overreach in the form of vaccine mandates taken to new heights.

With President Biden in the White House and Democrats in control of Congress, Americans know 2022 will be no better. According to a recent Momentive Poll, more than half of Americans are more fearful than hopeful about what 2022 has in store for them and with good reason.

Just take a glimpse at the state of our economy. The Consumer Price Index rose 7 percent in December, the highest rate seen since 1982. This comes on the heels of President Biden's reckless spending agenda and senseless policies that have created a labor shortage; led to a decline in real, personal income; raised costs of consumer goods, gas, and home heating costs; and contributed to the supply chain disruptions that are causing drastic shortages and bare shelves across America.

Madam Speaker, this is President Joe Biden's version of America. It is costing Tennesseans more each day. President Biden can try to talk around it. He often refuses to talk about it at all. The reality remains the same. His administration's policies have been devastating to this Nation. More than ever, Americans want America-first leadership.

Madam Speaker, as we begin the first days of 2022, I remain steadfast in my commitment to focus on the needs of the good folks of Tennessee who I represent, not the whims of the permanent class of political elites in Washington D.C.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. FITZGERALD), another seasoned, very effective legislator.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Madam Speaker, this has been a year of crisis under the leadership of President Joe Biden. At the southern border, our country was noticeably lacking leadership and solutions from the White House. Instead, President Biden took regressive actions. He halted construction on the border wall, brought back catch and release, and got rid of the remain in Mexico policy.

Because of these decisions, over 1.7 million illegal immigrants have been encountered at the southern border since President Biden took office. The number of illegal crossings at the border has risen at a rate faster under President Biden than at any other time in recent history. U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported that fentanyl seizures increased 134 percent in fiscal year 2021.

I saw this crisis firsthand when I visited the southern border with my colleagues, and I have led and supported legislative solutions in Congress to combat this crisis. It is disheartening and unacceptable that President Biden has neither visited the border to witness the crisis, nor has he proposed solutions to control the unmanageable levels of border crossings and fentanyl trafficking. To say President Biden has under-delivered to the American people is beyond an understatement.

Madam Speaker, I say it again. This year has been a year of crisis under the leadership of President Biden.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GIMENEZ), who we refer to as "The Chief."

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, life has been hard for the American people as President Biden concludes his first year in office. Unfortunately, too many in this Chamber have bowed down to the most radical fringes of the Democratic Party.

The sad reality today is liberals in Congress have no clue what every day, hardworking Americans are going through. They care more about pushing their radical agenda than helping working families. The result is more inflation, higher gas prices, unconstitutional vaccine mandates, broken supply chains, and Americans struggling to make ends meet.

On our side of the aisle, Republicans are committed to making sure we get the American people back to work, ensuring that small businesses can find employees to help keep their businesses open, making sure Americans have uninterrupted access to goods, and getting our country roaring back with a strong economy and safe communities. Those are the issues that Americans really care about.

Here in Washington, Republicans will use our congressional authority to hold the Biden administration accountable for the Afghanistan debacle where we don't know how many Americans are still left behind in Afghanistan, for choosing to wreck our energy sector, handing Putin the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, and for allowing the southern borders to be kept wide open. Where once we were energy independent a year ago, now we are begging OPEC to please produce more.

Madam Speaker, after only a year of the Biden administration and his radical governing of our country, we have had enough. The American people have had enough. Our people, our country deserve better.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE).

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Madam Speaker, several days ago the Department of Labor released statistics on job creation and inflation in the United States. This data should be deeply alarming to every American.

This country, over the last year, has dumped trillions of dollars of excess

Federal spending into our economy. At the time economists warned us that doing so was dangerously inflationary. Unfortunately, those fears have come to fruition.

The statistics for the month of December show inflation at nearly 7 percent on an annualized basis. That is the highest rate of inflation in nearly 40 years. When inflation is caused through government action, as this round of inflation clearly is, it represents an unseen tax that is paid by every American because it raises the prices of everything that we buy.

Equally alarming is the fact that real wage growth has not kept up with inflation. In fact, the Department of Labor says that for all of last year real wage growth was negative nearly 2½ percent. If we don't correct this trend, it is going to result in an entire generation of Americans being driven toward poverty because their wages are not keeping up with the prices that they pay for the goods that they need to survive.

Madam Speaker, we need to get our fiscal house in order and correct this runaway Federal spending before our children suffer the consequences.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. STEEL).

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, this administration's failed policies have led to record inflation and empty store shelves across the country. Inflation just reached the highest level in 40 years. At the same time basic goods are harder and harder to find at the stores thanks to the supply chain mess.

Every day we see a new story about things getting more expensive, life getting harder for Americans. Hardworking families are sick and tired of paying more and getting less.

Madam Speaker, I have produced three bills that would help fix the supply chain crisis and ensure goods make it to the stores and consumers. These issues are urgent, but there has been no movement on these bills. Meanwhile, Democrats in Washington continue to spend more as paychecks get smaller and costs continue to rise.

Madam Speaker, I will continue to fight against these bad policies and push for solutions.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER).

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, as America marks a year since President Biden's inauguration, Republicans are focused on delivering solutions to the multitude of crises his administration has created.

After a year of one-party rule, the reality is American families are seeing empty shelves at the grocery store. Businesses cannot find workers. Inflation just hit the highest rate in 40 years. Meanwhile, the catastrophe at our southern border continues to worsen. In the past 12 months, more than

1.7 million people have been caught trying to enter the United States illegally.

Madam Speaker, the Biden administration can ignore these inconvenient truths all they want. Do you know who is noticing? The American people are noticing. These are the same people who are working every day, the people driving our economy forward in spite of President Biden stacking the odds against them.

Madam Speaker, be assured when Republicans regain the majority in the House, we will continue tackling these challenges by getting government out of the way, restoring our God-given freedoms, and ensuring Americans keep more of their hard-earned money.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO), one of the true border states that sees all of these crises firsthand.

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, well, it has been one year since President Biden and the Democrats have had complete control of running our country.

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They have the House, the Senate, and the Presidency.

And what have they accomplished in this 1 year?

Inflation has gone through the roof—a 40-year high. Gas prices are up. Grocery prices are up. The utilities costs have gone up. The border is wide-open with sex trafficking, human trafficking, and fentanyl flooding across our border.

COVID deaths are higher than they have ever been before.

Madam Speaker, do you know those long lines that you see of Americans waiting in line for COVID tests?

Well, guess what, Madam Speaker?

The Biden administration diverted over \$2 billion that was meant for those testing of COVID and for medical supplies and diverted it to house illegal immigrants.

Don't be surprised or mistaken, but it is the Democrat policies that have caused these problems.

And what are the Democrats doing now while the country is going down the tubes?

They are pushing election laws, election laws where they want to rig elections to their favor and fund their own elections. This is insanity.

I hope my Democratic colleagues will work together with us to solve the problems that are facing Americans today.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for her so well-said remarks.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas, (Mr. MANN).

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Louisiana for hosting this today. There are a lot of things to talk about for a year. We could talk about immigration. We could talk about inflation. We could

talk about crime. And we could talk about Afghanistan. The list goes on and on.

But I want to talk for a little bit today about trade and specifically our relationship with China.

I rise today to call the Biden administration to action regarding our trade partnership, or lack thereof, with China.

China has proven to be a bad faith negotiator, and they are using the United States as a doormat. Our country made a deal with China 2 years ago on January 15, 2020, and China has failed to live up to their end of the bargain by a long shot. As part of this deal, China committed to importing \$36 billion of U.S. agriculture products in 2020 and 2021 combined, but they have fallen short by nearly \$7 billion. China sold American farmers a bill of goods, and the Biden administration has made no effort to rectify this egregious situation.

Now that phase one is expiring, farmers and ranchers are frustrated to say the least. USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack, in a feeble effort to reassure us, said:

Ambassador Tai, our U.S. Trade Representative, continues to converse with China about the necessity of living up totally and completely to the phase one trade agreement, making up their deficit over the course of the next several years.

This is completely unacceptable. The next several years was never part of this deal, which is not a complex one. China said that they would purchase a certain amount of agricultural goods, and they have fallen short by a margin that suggests that they never intended to live up to their end of the deal in the first place.

Again, we have not seen any effort from this administration on behalf of farmers, which is why I am standing here today to state the obvious—the United States must either force China to comply with their end of the agreement or punish them for failing to do so. That is how deals work. At the very least, we need to see this administration developing a new, comprehensive, realistic deal to collect the deficit. The time for conversations already took place long before the deal was signed January 15, 2020, when China signed the deal.

This administration at year end needs to step up and defend our farmers, our ranchers, and our country from being financially manipulated by China—yet another unnecessary crisis.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that plain talk from Kansas.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), who is one of the brightest and most respected Members of Congress.

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, if the Biden administration were a new TV show streaming on Netflix or HBO, it clearly would have been canceled after the end of the first season.

On this anniversary of Mr. Biden's failed first year, I call attention to the

crisis at the Southwest border, a crisis which President Biden and the Democrats have continuously chosen to turn a blind eye to. In just 1 year, over 1.7 million illegal immigrants have been apprehended at the border—an all-time high.

President Trump spent 4 years fighting to secure our border by enacting policies to keep Americans—especially in our communities along the border—safe. After less than a month in office, President Biden revoked the Trump-era border policies and replaced them, Madam Speaker, with what?

Absolutely nothing.

In April, 3 months after Joe Biden took office and 2 months after these policies were rescinded, I made my seventh trip to the Southwest border. During that visit, I witnessed the most unstable conditions that I have seen since coming to Congress. I immediately called on President Biden then to reinstate the Trump-era policies that were working along our border.

Finally, just a few weeks ago in December, it was announced that President Biden planned to re-implement President Trump's Remain in Mexico policy. But, Madam Speaker, we need action, not talk. President Biden should visit the border and talk to the communities there. President Biden should fire his Homeland Security Secretary who is not getting the job done.

So in this first failed year, President Biden has neglected our Southwest border. That neglect is evident with deteriorating conditions, apprehensions at an all-time high, and record amounts of illegal drugs pouring across our open border and poisoning our families.

Americans deserve better. Americans deserve a secure border, and Americans deserve leadership.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, Americans do deserve so much better.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM).

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. JOHNSON for yielding.

Madam Speaker, 1 year ago, I joined several of my colleagues—especially the freshman Republican colleagues—in a letter to President Biden showing our willingness to work with him on behalf of the American people and to bridge the partisan gridlock, because our President's success is our Nation's success.

While I am proud that 1 year later I have been able to get 12 bipartisan bills out of the House and four signed into law, I am disappointed that the policies from the Biden administration encourage more division, more Federal spending, and more crises hurting American workers, families, and small businesses as we continue through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Inflation is at a 40-year high, driving up prices everywhere from the grocery store to prices at the gas pump. We have record high numbers of migrants and illicit drugs at our southern border

straining our resources and empowering drug cartels. Our disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan resulted in the deaths of 13 U.S. servicemembers, and we still have left the lives of Americans and our allies and military arsenal in the hands of the Taliban.

In the latest edition of partisan politics last week, one of my bipartisan bills was taken over and instead became over 700 pages of nationalizing elections and letting public funds be used for political campaigns.

I will keep working through this gridlock, sticking to my conservative policies and principles and fighting back against Big Government and big spending policies.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. I thank the gentlewoman for her principled leadership. It has been effective, and we are grateful she is here.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the State of Texas (Mr. WEBER).

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Speaker, tomorrow, January 20, 2022, is a day that will live in infamy and marks 1 year since Joe Biden was sworn in as President.

I remember saying: This is the most important election of our lifetime.

Unfortunately, I was right.

In 1 year—under one-party rule and in just 1 year—it has been one huge, continuing debacle and crisis.

We went from energy independence to energy crisis, Madam Speaker; from a rebounding economy to the highest inflation in 40 years; from international peace through strength to increased tensions with our greatest adversaries; and might I add, losing the confidence of our allies.

We went, Madam Speaker, from border security to 2 million illegal alien crossings; from the end of the pandemic to the never-ending pandemic, particularly with unconstitutional mandates.

What is the cause?

One Democrat disaster after another, and Americans are losing faith not only with the performance of the current administration, but also with our governmental agencies: the FBI, the DOJ, and the CDC. You name it. The list is endless.

Democrats are showing who they are: Socialists, police defunders, open border advocates, and anti-parents who just want a say in their child's schooling. Is that too much to ask?

That is what Democrats are. This is their brand, and that Democrat brand, I might add, is a disaster. We Republicans need to point it out every day in every way.

So to my Republican colleagues I say, let's go brand 'em.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Brand 'em. I like it.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER), who is another very effective legislator.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank the Congressman for hosting this Special Order.

Madam Speaker, Americans have experienced whiplash this past year as the Biden administration has spun us from the America first agenda to America last.

We watched in horror as the Taliban released thousands of al-Qaida, ISIS, and Taliban prisoners from the prison at Bagram Air Base. Our servicemembers bravely sacrificed to capture those terrorists, and the Biden administration allowed them to be released. One of the ISIS-K prisoners led the bombing that killed our 13 servicemembers.

Biden's failure in Afghanistan led to the surrender of tens of billions of dollars in U.S. military equipment to the Taliban. Military equipment paid for by U.S. taxpayers will now be used against America because of President Biden. As Afghanistan fell, President Biden disappeared, first to Camp David and then to Delaware.

His Cabinet refused to brief the American people directly and instead sent spokesmen. Additionally, the Defense Secretary refused to testify before Congress.

The Biden administration then flew an estimated 78,000 Afghan nationals to American soil and then lied to the American people about the vetting process they were using to ensure that no ISIS, al-Qaida, or Taliban terrorists were brought to our shores.

To this day, no one in the Biden administration has been held responsible for the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan or for the lies that were told to the American people, and no one has been fired or resigned.

Madam Speaker, who will be fired?

Who is resigning?

The American people deserve accountability. China, our enemy, has watched all of this unfold; and, sadly, our children and grandchildren will pay the price of Biden's incompetence.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, the gentlewoman's remarks are well-said.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Georgia (Mr. CARTER). Georgia is the home of the new national championship football team.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for hosting this Special Order.

Madam Speaker, Joe Biden's first year in office has exceeded all expectations. In 365 short days, Joe Biden has managed to inflict an entire term of pain and hardship on the American people. Grocery store shelves are empty. Prices are up 7 percent nationwide. Gas costs \$1 more per gallon today than it did when Biden took office. Americans lost the equivalent of two paychecks last year, and Biden has failed to add one single job from our 2019 high.

Madam Speaker, only one thing has gone down in price during this administration, and that is the price of fentanyl. That is the price of fentanyl because of the fentanyl that is coming across the southern border.

Washington Democrats were counting on Joe Biden to socialize our economy, and, boy, did he deliver. His administration caved to teachers unions, putting the wants of liberal elites ahead of the needs of our children who are desperate for high quality, in-person learning.

Domestic terrorists—that is how this administration labeled parents who want better for their children than virtual learning. It is despicable.

He caved to Russia, gutting the Keystone XL pipeline on his first day in office but allowing the Nord Stream 2 pipeline to push ahead virtually unchecked.

He caved to Fauci, who kept his job despite lying to Congress about gain-of-function research.

Do you know who isn't caving, Madam Speaker?

Senator MANCHIN, the Supreme Court, and Republicans across the Nation who are fed up with this administration's singular focus on stripping rights and opportunities away from Americans. This administration has more than earned its 33 percent approval rating, and I hope, for the sake of our country, that the next 3 years are nothing like the one we have just endured.

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Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. SPARTZ), one of the smartest and hardest working Members of Congress.

Mrs. SPARTZ. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding. I know that we have talked a lot about different crises, and we do have a lot of different crises. We have an economic crisis. We have an inflation crisis. We have an energy cost crisis. We have a supply chain crisis. We have an education crisis. We have a crime crisis. We have a COVID response crisis. We have a healthcare crisis. We have a foreign relations and security crisis. We have a freedom of speech crisis. We have a centralized government and infringement on our rights crisis.

There is one crisis that is very disturbing and concerning to me as a naturalized American who immigrated to this great country. I went to the border three times, and what I saw was lawlessness; its issue of national security, its anarchy, and it is a crisis that has posed a risk to our sovereignty as a nation.

We can see what has happened in the country. Drug cartels are controlling the border. They control drug trafficking and are making billions from that. We have the highest deaths from overdoses in our country that ever existed. Our kids are dying, and they are making a lot of money. The border is open. No one can control it. It poses risks to our national security.

I hope for us all as Americans who care about our country, that our President at least starts dealing with this crisis because it is a serious issue, and

we cannot disregard national security of the greatest country that ever existed on Earth and put our people at risk.

It is our responsibility as Representatives for this Republic to stand up, regardless of party affiliations, and raise the issues, and we owe a duty to the American people.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments.

Madam Speaker, what my colleagues have illustrated here in this Special Order is the crisis that we have in this country. We are on the anniversary now of 1 year of far-left Democratic rule in Washington. We have a unified government. The far-left Democrats are in charge of the White House and both Houses of Congress. Elections have consequences. The American people can see it for themselves. Every poll across this country shows us. They know that it is crisis upon crisis upon crisis.

You have heard my colleagues illustrate so many of those here this afternoon. If we had hours upon hours we could continue all night.

The economic crisis last year: Inflation cost the average worker nearly two paychecks.

An energy crisis: The national average for a gallon of gas rose 49.6 percent for the year.

A border crisis: Because of the Democrats' open border policies, every State is now a border State.

An education crisis: President Biden promised to reopen schools in his first 100 days but his administration secretly worked with teachers' unions to keep the schools closed and label parents as domestic terrorists.

A crime crisis: Over a dozen U.S. cities had a record-high homicide rate in 2021.

A COVID crisis: Although President Biden promised to shut down the virus, many Americans continue to struggle to find tests, and, of course, many schools remain closed because of this.

A national security crisis: Because of President Biden's weakness on the world stage, our adversaries in Beijing, Tehran, and Moscow are stronger today and they are in power.

We could go on and on and on. I am out of time, Madam Speaker, but I will just point out again, the latest poll that was released just this morning didn't look at just numbers. They asked the American people to give a letter grade to the President. Thirty percent of Americans give the President an F, a failing grade, and more Americans give him an F than give him an A or a B. This is a failed Presidency. These are failed policies. We are living under the crises that they have created. It is time for this to come to an end.

We are grateful to the American people for recognizing this, and we look forward to bringing our solutions to bear at the election cycle this fall.

Madam Speaker, our Special Order hour has concluded, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

MOURNING THE LIVES LOST AT TWIN PARKS NORTH WEST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I come here with the heaviest heart. My beloved Bronx saw the deadliest fire in the history of New York City in more than three decades; a fire that has left a death count of 17 residents, including 8 children.

A malfunctioning space heater was the immediate cause of the fire in a duplex on the third floor of a 19-story building known as Twin Parks North West. And even though the fire was largely limited to the third floor, both the apartment door and the nearby stairwell door were left open, causing the smoke to spread rapidly and widely throughout the 19-story building.

Since the building has no fire escapes and since the stairwells were full of black, toxic smoke, the tenants had no means of escape. The smoke spread so widely that victims were found on every floor. The fatalities were tenants who died from severe smoke inhalation from cardiac and respiratory arrest.

Almost all of the victims came from a single town in Gambia. The Gambian community has had roots in Twin Parks North West that date back more than half a century. It is hard to imagine a more closely knit community, a community more tied by the bonds of faith and family and fellowship than the Gambian community of Twin Parks North West, and so the loss is deeply felt.

The victims were as young as 2, and no older than 50. These were victims who had their whole lives ahead of them. Ousmane Konteh was only 2 years old.

Muhammed Drammeh celebrated his twelfth birthday.

Sera Janneh was a student at Lehman College. She had dreams of becoming a social worker of aiding those afflicted by trauma.

My heart aches for the father who lost his wife, two daughters, and a son; for the mother who lost her toddler; for the children who lost their parents; for the Drammeh family who lost four members; and the Dukureh family who lost five.

The fire at Twin Parks North West was as preventable as it was tragic. If the space heater had shut off automatically, the fire would have been prevented.

If the apartment door and the stairwell doors had closed automatically, the spread of the smoke would have been contained and countless lives would have been saved.

If the building had a sprinkler system, the fire would have been extinguished.

If the building had a two-way intercom system, the tenants would have been advised by the fire department to remain in their homes instead of fleeing to a smoke-filled stairwell that had become a death trap.

And if the tenants had sufficient heat and hot water in their homes, there would have been no need to use dangerous space heaters in the first place.

The use of space heaters is often a cry for help and a cry for heat. It is often an act of desperation for decent and dignified housing.

Madam Speaker, the Bronx is no stranger to deadly fires. New York City's four worst fires in the past 30 years have all been in the Bronx, have all been in my district of south Bronx.

The prevalence of deadly fires in south Bronx is no accident. It is a consequence of systemic disinvestment from the lowest income communities of color, from places like the south Bronx, from the safety and quality of affordable housing.

When it comes to fire safety, America is a tale of two countries and New York is a tale of two cities. If you live in a luxury development in Manhattan, then fire safety can be taken for granted. But if you live in an affordable housing complex in the south Bronx, there is no guarantee that your building will have a sprinkler system; in fact, it is unlikely to have one.

There is no guarantee that your building will have self-closing doors. There is no guarantee that your building will have what experts would consider anything resembling modern standards of fire safety.

In America, poor people of color are left to live in conditions that put them at greater risk of losing everything, including their own homes, their own families, their own lives from a catastrophic fire.

If that is not cruel and callous, I am not sure what would be. We are reminded that safe and decent affordable housing is not a privilege but a right; not a luxury but a moral necessity; not an abstraction but a matter of life and death. Building back better should and must mean building back safer for communities long forgotten.

On January 9, the world bore witness to one of the fire department's finest hours of public service. It took the Herculean efforts of more than 200 firefighters to extinguish the fires at Twin Parks North West. Firefighters who had ran out of oxygen in their tanks ran into burning buildings, saving lives at great risk to their own.