

Do we care about merit anymore?

Should these programs benefit millionaires?

Right now, if you are worth \$20 million, and you apply for a government contract, you are given preferences despite the fact you are already wildly wealthy.

By the way, Thomas Sowell, when he writes about affirmative action points out that frequently around the world when we do this affirmative action stuff, it benefits primarily the wealthy.

□ 1445

What percent should you be before you get credit for preferences based on your background? Right now it is open ended. Should it be an eighth, should it be a sixteenth? Senator ELIZABETH WARREN apparently was smaller than 1/64th or 1/128th Native American. She felt that should give her preference apparently in becoming a law professor at Harvard University. So what percent should we be looking at?

Are there any jobs that we should go back to old-fashioned merit based?

How about a doctor? Should we get the best people we can to be heart surgeons? I would think so.

How about air traffic controllers?

How about engineers who are designing bridges? Or are all jobs primarily based on ethnic background and not necessarily on merit?

As mentioned, this new special interest group put in there by President Biden, the Middle Eastern North African group, largely came to this country after affirmative action began. Originally, the idea behind affirmative action was America discriminated against you in the past and you deserve a step up to get caught up. Here you have people who were not even in America.

Again, Thomas Sowell, when he talks about these race preference things and these race bureaucracies, points out that it always hurts a country when people view themselves as a member of an ethnic group first and view themselves as a citizen of that country secondly.

I look at Canada, which I think has always had problems throughout my whole lifetime in that it is divided between people who speak French and people who speak English.

I look at Nigeria, where we had a division between tribes and a division between the Muslims in the north and the Christians of the south, which resulted in a civil war and millions of people dying.

We look at Rwanda and the horrific things that happened there as the country is divided into races.

India with its not only ethnic differences but religious differences.

Sri Lanka had a horrible civil war as the government began to weigh in on this group and that group.

Historically, America has stuck with its motto, "e pluribus unum," "out of many, one." Okay, we come from all around the world, but we consider our-

selves Americans first, and we eventually kind of drop or rarely think about where our ancestry came from. Al Gore twice embarrassed himself by getting the meaning of "e pluribus unum" screwed up; and he said, "out of one, many."

In other words, right now we have people who primarily consider themselves American, and the Biden administration says, well, wait a minute, you should primarily consider yourself based upon where your great-great-great-grandparents are from. That is just a big mistake.

What can we do here? I think, first of all, there should be more of an outcry over the Biden administration's plan to give what amounts to preferences to Middle Eastern North African people. Again, immigrants who came here recently, not prejudiced, I am sure doing very well. I think the only reason you bring them into the loop is if you want to destroy America through divisiveness, which has happened in many other countries around the world.

Then we ought to get rid of these racial equity committees in which we have apparently government bureaucrats whose sole job is to divide Americans or judge Americans or weigh the worth of Americans by their ethnic background.

Increasingly, when I look at what is going on with the bankers, it is not just going to be ethnic background, it is going to be sexual background, as well. Is that right? I don't know who could possibly think it is right that the banker has to at the end of the month go through the forms that he has accepted for loans as to say, do I have enough people of the right sexual background, but that is the way we are going in America. I hope we end it.

These programs began almost 60 years ago; I think now about 57 years ago. Like programs around the world, when they began these programs of preferences, they were supposed to be temporary. Like I said, I think when they began these programs in the 1960s, if you told people they would still be around 57 years later, you never would have believed it, and you sure wouldn't have believed it if you thought we were going to add all these other groups, most of which were not even in the United States at the time added to the mix.

I hope we have a public discussion on that. I have listed the questions that should be answered, and hopefully it is something that, if nobody else, at least the pundit class can weigh in on, and we can educate our young people as to what is going on because I think a lot of these preferences, particularly with regard to jobs in businesses that are government contracting, the public is not even aware of.

That is a summary of what I think is an important issue and ought to be addressed.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Lisa P. Grant, Deputy Clerk of the House, reported and found truly an enrolled bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 346. An act to establish a task force on improvements for notices to air missions, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, May 26, 2023, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-1039. A letter from the Associate Director, Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule and guidance — Enhanced Weapons, Firearms Background Checks, and Security Event Notifications [NRC-2011-0014; NRC-2011-0015; NRC-2011-0017; NRC-2011-0018] (RIN: 3150-A149) received May 22, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1040. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 23-003, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1041. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 22-072, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1042. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 23-008, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1043. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 23-016, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1044. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for the drawdown of defense articles and services and military education and training under section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide immediate military assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1045. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Determination Under Section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1046. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Inspector General Semi-annual Report to Congress for the period October 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-1047. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Civil Penalty Amendments to Rules of Practice and Procedure [Docket No.: FMC-2023-0008] (RIN: 3072-AC95) received May 15, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1048. A letter from the National Adjutant, Chief Executive Officer, Disabled American Veterans, transmitting the reports and proceedings of the 2022 National Convention of Disabled American Veterans, held in Orlando, Florida, August 6-9, 2022, pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 1332; Public Law 90-620, Oct. 22, 1968 (as amended by Public Law 105-225, Sec. 3); (112 Stat. 1498) (H. Doc. No. 118—44); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed.

EC-1049. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Services IRB only rule — Domestic Content Bonus Credit Guidance under Sections 45, 45Y, 48, and 48E [Notice 2023-38] received May 22, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-1050. A letter from the Branch Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Perpetual Trust Funds [Notice 2023-39] received May 22, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-1051. A letter from the Director, Office of External Affairs, United States International Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's report on Economic Impact of Section 232 and 301 Tariffs on U.S. Industries, Investigation No. 332-591, USITC Publication 5405, March 2023; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Ms. CHU, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Ms. SALINAS):

H.R. 3659. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a demonstration program to facilitate the clinical adoption of pregnancy intention screening initiatives by health care and social service providers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. BROWNLEY, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 3660. A bill to protect consumers from unfair and deceptive acts and practices in connection with primary and secondary ticket sales, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MOORE of Utah (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KUSTOFF, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. FEENSTRA, and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 3661. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitations on expensing of depreciable business assets; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Ms. MOORE of

Wisconsin, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. BACON, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, and Ms. SCANLON):

H.R. 3662. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a refundable adoption tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS):

H.R. 3663. A bill to amend the SOAR Act; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. SANTOS:

H.R. 3664. A bill to prohibit the availability of Federal funds to the World Health Organization pending the conduct of an investigation relating to the influence over such organization by Chinese Communist Party, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. ESTES, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. HERN, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. STEUBE, Ms. TENNEY, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mrs. STEEL, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. FEENSTRA, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, and Mr. CAREY):

H.R. 3665. A bill to provide an enforcement of remedies against the extraterritorial taxes and discriminatory taxes of foreign countries; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WENSTRUP (for himself, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. JACKSON of Texas):

H.R. 3666. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to designate illicit fentanyl as a weapon of mass destruction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WENSTRUP (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 3667. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for the reissuance of social security account numbers to young children in cases where confidentiality has been compromised; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio (for himself and Mr. PHILLIPS):

H.R. 3668. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the TRICARE program for certain members of the Retired Reserve of the reserve components; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ALLEN:

H.R. 3669. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve mental health services for students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BEAN of Florida (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CARSON, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART):

H.R. 3670. A bill to designate the POW/MIA Memorial and Museum in Jacksonville, Florida, as the National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BERA (for himself, Mr. TONKO, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARSON, Mr. KILMER, Ms. TITUS, Ms. WILD, and Mr. TRONE):

H.R. 3671. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve the detection, prevention, and treatment of mental health issues among public safety officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BERGMAN (for himself, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. WALBERG, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. JAMES, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. THANEDAR):

H.R. 3672. A bill to designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Indian River, Michigan, as the "Pfc. Justin T. Paton Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BIGGS (for himself, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. OGLES, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. BRECHEEN, and Mr. GAETZ):

H.R. 3673. A bill to rescind certain unobligated balances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 3674. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase the non-facility practice expense relative value units for specified services furnished under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BOEBERT (for herself, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. NEHLS):

H.R. 3675. A bill to amend the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act to extend certain contract prepayment authority; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 3676. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent certain programs that assist homeless veterans and other veterans with special needs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.