

PAUL RYAN, and thanks to the leadership of Chairman KEVIN BRADY, we have what, for most Americans—not all, but for most Americans—is simply the greatest economy they have had in their entire lifetimes:

Unemployment is at a 50-year low, cutting across all socioeconomic groups;

Small business optimism and consumer optimism is off the charts;

We are seeing more people come back into the labor force.

This is all great news, but we cannot be blinded by the fact that, as good as the economy is today, we still have to concentrate on the economy of tomorrow. We need to know:

Can we ensure that the seed capital is there?

Can we make sure that our public policy nourishes the drivers of tomorrow's economy?

The next Amazons, the next Googles, and the next Ubers, where are they going to come from?

So, unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, what we have seen is that, as recently as 2016, startups in America have been cut in half.

And, oh, incidentally, the regulatory burden—more securities regulatory burden—has increased by over 50 percent in the last 10 years, and by over 80 percent. It now costs, Mr. Speaker, twice as much to go public today as it did 10 years ago.

What do we see? We see half the number of companies going public.

They don't seem to have that problem in China, Mr. Speaker, because China has over one-third of the world's IPOs, or initial public offerings; yet, in the United States, our IPOs have been cut in half.

That is why it is so important that every Congress go back and we ensure that our securities laws are written in such a way that we make sure that entrepreneurial capitalism can't just survive in America but absolutely thrive.

So I come to this floor again to ask that our colleagues on the other side of the Capitol—and I have many friends in that body, but I am often confused why they cannot act on something that has received incredible support in the House.

Mr. Speaker, November is National Entrepreneurship Month. There are only 2 days left in the month. I hope that my voice can be heard on the other side of the Capitol, and I would ask the United States Senate to immediately take up the JOBS 3.0 Act and make sure that the economy of tomorrow for our children and grandchildren is as healthy and thriving as the economy of today.

□ 1030

HUMANITARIAN MORAL COMPASS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, the uniqueness of this Nation is the idea

that we have coddled democracy, freedom, and justice. We have maintained a constitutional government and have been respected worldwide. This has been through wars, times of peace, times of depression, and times of devastation in our own Nation. Yet, we remain a Nation that has a moral guidepost.

I rise today to announce to this House that America can do two things at once. It can condemn the terroristic, violent act of killing a Saudi reporter who worked at the Washington Post, and, at the same time, maintain its status and prominence to engage in the affairs of the Middle East, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage the legislation that is now moving through procedurally in the United States Senate to remove our support for the Yemen war that the Saudis have enacted upon against the people of Yemen and stand against the violent acts against children—the killing of children on school buses, which has happened over and over again—and the bloodshed and starvation that is going on in Yemen with our affirmation.

It is time now to end that bloody war with our handprints on it. I hope the other body will engage in debate and be fully informed by this thoughtful, bipartisan legislation. I believe that it should come to the House and that we should act on it with all expeditiousness.

Now just imagine that a tape exists, which I believe Members of Congress should have the right to listen to, but I understand we are brilliant people and our imaginations are vivid. Imagine that you went into a consular's office with the hopes and dreams of a new marriage. You are following the codes and laws of your native land to get permission to marry again, to have joy again, to be able to be with someone you love.

Rather than having the process on paper, your blood was splattered on the floor. You are greeted with a brutal force that demanded whatever—loyalty to the crown prince—and you were bludgeoned and killed by allegedly the biggest untruth: it was an accident. Then, tragically, to your family comes the evidence or the word that you were mutilated or dismembered.

Our imagination, tragically, can allow us to see that picture, ordered by the crown prince. We must cease and desist any relationship in this war and, at the same time, maintain diplomacy.

Mr. Speaker, we also need to be more merciful to those who are at the border. As a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, we have created this crisis here in the government, the White House, and the administration. We must be humanitarians. Tear gas can be used to protect our men and women at the border, but it must be used sparingly and not against mothers and children.

I hope to be able to discuss this issue. I hope to be down at the border to see this disgraceful behavior. We can do

better in feeding them and providing cover as they are processed. Our law has not changed. You can seek a legal asylum request to enter the legal ports of entry—even those who are not. The White House knows that. Let us not be known for the brutality against women and children as we have been known to separate women and children.

Finally, again, as a member of the Homeland Security Committee, we need to rush disaster housing assistance to California. None of us have seen the magnitude of the Camp fire fires. FEMA has not provided disaster housing assistance. The President must issue that order. We must rush to provide for those people who are homeless. We know that it is more efficient to provide funding for housing as opposed to hotels. They are begging for it. I believe that we should convene a Homeland Security hearing to be able to assist these individuals as quickly as possible.

Where is the humanitarian moral compass of this Nation to stop killing children in Yemen; to understand that we must help those suffering refugees at the border; and finally, Mr. Speaker, to help our neighbors in California get housing after everything is gone?

WAR IN YEMEN

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

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I have closely followed the recent developments in the war between Saudi Arabia and the Houthi rebels in Yemen.

This is one of the world's deadliest wars. Air strikes and other acts of war have killed tens of thousands of civilians. Yemen has become a wasteland, with widespread disease and famine. An estimated 85,000 children have been killed or died from malnutrition. The United Nation estimates that Yemen is now facing the specter of a famine threatening 14 million people: half of their population. Three-quarters of Yemen's population now requires urgent humanitarian assistance.

The time has come for us to reconsider our support for this disastrous war and to consider the moral imperatives that form the foundation of our values, as well as our strategic interests. In this instance, I believe both our moral values and strategic interest require that we reassess our involvement in this tragic human catastrophe. We must reject war and pursue peace.

The day I was sworn in as a Member of Congress, I joined the House in passing a resolution calling on all parties involved in the conflict to increase efforts to prevent civilian casualties and to increase humanitarian access. In addition, the resolution denounced the conduct of the war in Yemen that is, directly or indirectly, inconsistent with the laws of armed conflict, including the deliberate targeting of civilians

and the use of civilians as human shields.

It is my fear that our continued support of this war will only increase resentment of the United States and the region. It will diminish U.S. security and undermine America's moral authority and reputation as a champion of our foundational values such as human rights and civil liberties.

In addition to the horrendous humanitarian costs in Yemen itself, it makes the entire region less secure and makes humanitarian disasters in the wider region more likely. But more importantly, what is happening in Yemen is just simply wrong. It is out of harmony with America's values. Ironically, the very reason we want to support a strong ally in Saudi Arabia is to prevent this type of situation, not foster it.

These conditions provide a breeding ground for violent extremism and for terrorist groups to expand. Prolonging the war in Yemen only strengthens the Islamic state in Yemen and al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula. Additionally, the conflict undertaken by the Saudi-led coalition under the objective of "eliminating Iranian influence" has achieved just the opposite.

Iran has been able to use the conflict as an opportunity to establish a foothold across the Middle East. They send soldiers to prop up a dictator, Bashar al-Assad, in Syria. Additionally, Iran-supported Hezbollah is now the dominant political force in Lebanon, and able to threaten neighboring Israel, our closest ally in the region, with its growing missile and rocket arsenal. This threat to Israel is in addition to the ongoing barrage of missiles fired into Israel by Iran-supported Hamas in Gaza.

I welcomed Secretary of Defense Mattis' comments in October, when he said, "It's time to stop this." He urged all parties to sit down and pursue peace. Secretary of Defense Mattis' comments were followed by Secretary of State Pompeo's statement in which he said, "The time is now for the cessation of hostilities."

I echo Secretary of Mattis' further comments when he said, "We have got to move toward a peace effort here, and we can't say we are going to do it sometime in the future." We should support the U.N.-led efforts to bring peace to this devastated country and urge the Saudi-led coalition and Houthis to start peace negotiations immediately.

Ending our support for the Saudi-led coalition highlights the gross inhumanity of the war and that we do not support the way the conflict in Yemen is being conducted. It underlines our growing concerns about the behavior of Saudi Arabia as it affects larger American strategic interests in the region and our interest in preserving global humanitarian norms. Ending our support for the war will force the Saudi-led coalition to reconsider its policies and will signal our support for peace

negotiations as, as called for by the administration.

American foreign policy requires a balance between our national security and moral values. In the case of the war in Yemen, these competing imperatives are not in conflict. Ending U.S. support for the war in Yemen supports both American strategic interests and humanitarian values.

EYE DONATION MONTH

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to acknowledge November as Eye Donation Month, dedicated to increasing awareness of the need to register as an eye, organ, and tissue donor.

Since 1983, the Eye Bank Association of America, EBAA, and each of its 75-member eye banks across the U.S. have dedicated this month to honoring the Nation's eye donors and their families, and to celebrate the transformative impact of corneal transplants on the lives of their recipients.

With a 97 percent success rate, corneal transplants are the Nation's most successful organ transplant procedures. Since the Association's founding in 1961, nearly 2 million corneal tissue recipients have regained their sight.

In 2017, EBAA member eye banks recovered 135,203 corneas from 68,565 donors across the United States. This made it possible to provide the gift of sight to approximately 51,000 men, women, and children in the U.S., and over 26,000 recipients internationally. These eye banks also provided more than 24,000 corneas for research and educational purposes.

My home State of California is served by eight eye banks that recovered nearly 8,000 corneas last year, making it the largest source of corneal tissue for transplant and research in the country. These donations allowed thousands of Californians to regain their vision and resume the lives they had planned on living before disease or injury deprived them of their sight.

In addition to improving their recipients' quality of life and giving comfort to donor families, corneal transplants also have a considerable economic impact on America's healthcare system. A recent EBAA analysis found that the net lifetime economic benefits of cornea transplants performed in 2017 will exceed \$6 billion, due to the elimination of medical expenses related to vision care and the increased productivity of both the cornea recipients and their caregivers.

I thank the Eye Bank Association of America for its decades-long dedication to the restoration of sight. I thank all of those who list themselves as an organ donor on their driver's license. I thank all of those who are willing to give of themselves for others. I want to reassure and thank their loved ones, because those who have passed have done a great good for society, for peo-

ple who have lost their sight, and for future generations who will one day benefit from the research they have contributed to by donating their corneas.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in urging all Americans to give the selfless gift of vision and life by registering to become eye, organ, and tissue donors.

RECOGNIZING LOIS WHEELER

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, we recently returned to Congress after celebrating Thanksgiving, a time when we pause and reflect on the many blessings that our community bestows upon each one of us.

Today, I am proud to recognize an outstanding citizen from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who worked tirelessly for over three decades to ensure residents were able to enjoy the holiday surrounded by friends and good food.

Lois Wheeler of Lower Makefield began serving Thanksgiving meals to the underprivileged in our community in 1980. Known as "Bountiful Harvest Feasts," Lois hosted between 125 and 200 people yearly at the Masonic Lodge in Fairless Hills.

Lois' dedication to serving the hungry began in high school. While attending Neshaminy High School in Langhorne, Lois saw a classmate who was not able to afford lunch. Wheeler was so moved, she would bring him sandwiches to eat. When they were not available, she would give away her own lunch.

Lois is truly beloved in our community. Her continued generosity has earned her the nickname "Sister Wheeler," and she has also been called the "Mother Teresa of Bucks County."

While Lois' health prevented her from participating this year, her legacy of service to Bucks County cannot be erased. We applaud Lois for her charity and generosity, and wish her and her husband, George, all the best.

□ 1045

RECOGNIZING THE LINGHOCKEN VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY AND THE COUNCIL ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ACHIEVE PROGRAM

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize students and public servants in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who recently teamed up to spread awareness of fire safety and vocational training.

Last month, the Linghocken Volunteer Fire Company met with students in the Council Rock School District's ACHIEVE program, which is geared towards providing students with special needs the tools and skills needed for self-sufficiency.

The Linghocken Volunteer Fire Company's presentation, which took place in a fire safety trailer to simulate real-life emergencies, was aimed