

world wants to make the region insecure, we will make the world insecure.”

So the Keystone XL pipeline—which is the second part of this discussion—we heard on the floor yesterday, and it was acknowledged by both sides that, at a minimum, 20,000 jobs would be created, maybe up to 110,000 jobs. We also heard about organized labor being all in on the Keystone XL pipeline. I quoted a couple of members of organized labor. One would be Brent Bookers, director of the construction department at the Laborers’ International Union of North America. He said, “For many members of the Laborers, this project is not just a pipeline; it is a lifeline.”

But what doesn’t get told about Keystone XL pipeline enough is its importance for energy security.

Now, look. If Iran can shut down the Strait of Hormuz, why do you think we’re in the gulf? Why is the Middle East so important? We all know why it is; because that’s where all of the crude oil is.

So why would we not access the third largest oil supply to the Earth from our northern neighbor, Canada?

The map is right here. Right up here you have the great Canadian oil sands in Alberta. The red line is already a pipeline called the Keystone pipeline. What is being proposed is the Keystone XL pipeline, which would help bring Canadian crude to the oil refineries in Texas.

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Now, I already have Keystone crude oil coming to my refinery in Wood River, to the terminal in Patoka, and to the Marathon refinery in Robinson, Illinois, and that crude oil, once refined through pipeline, goes to Cleveland, goes to Detroit, goes to Chicago and goes all over the country. There can be no more secure route for crude oil for this country than the Keystone Pipeline and the Keystone XL Pipeline. Do we dare as a country still have to fret over threats by a member of the Iranian parliament because they want to shut down the Strait of Hormuz? We will have to continue to worry about this unless we continue to build and work with our Canadian allies on the Keystone XL Pipeline.

We know it’s a jobs issue, we know it’s an organized labor issue, and we know it’s an energy security issue. And I just thought this story was timely with respect to our vote to hold Iran accountable. So we’re on the record: We need energy security and we need the Keystone XL Pipeline.

RAPE IN THE MILITARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise again today to highlight the epidemic of rape and sexual assault in the military. This is the 14th time that I will

stand on this floor to tell the story of yet another victim. Each has proudly served their country, each was violently attacked, and each was subjected to a system of justice that protects the perpetrators and punishes the victims.

Make no mistake, the United States military is the finest in the world. But even the Department of Defense recognizes that there is a deep-rooted problem of military sexual trauma that must be addressed. DOD estimates that there are some 19,000 soldiers who are sexually assaulted or raped each year in the military. It’s a staggering figure. Sexual assault in the military is a cancer that is undermining readiness, unit cohesion and morale, and fixing this broken system will strengthen our military, not weaken it, as some have argued.

Today, I want to tell the story of Specialist Andrea Neutzling. Originally from a small town on the banks of the Ohio River, Specialist Neutzling served in the Army from 2000 to 2004 and then served in the Army Reserves from August 2004 until April 2010. She has served her country in Korea and twice deployed to Iraq.

In 2002, while serving in Korea, Specialist Neutzling was sexually assaulted by an intoxicated colleague outside the latrine. She decided to report the assault to her command, and her assailant was sentenced—sentenced to 5 days of base restriction. That was it.

In August of 2005, Specialist Neutzling was deployed to Iraq, and again one of her fellow soldiers sexually assaulted her. But after learning what “justice” meant for a previous perpetrator and not wanting to be seen as a troublemaker, she decided not to report the sexual assault to command. Instead, she simply slept on a cot, her rifle pointed toward the door for days. Several months later, she was deployed again to Iraq. After being in the country for 2 weeks, Specialist Neutzling was brutally raped and physically assaulted by two soldiers. The two soldiers were from a unit that was scheduled to depart Iraq, and their unit was being replaced by Specialist Neutzling’s unit. The soldiers were drunk when they raped her and threatened to beat her if she struggled. Specialist Neutzling suffered serious bodily injuries from the rape.

Again learning what “justice” meant from her previous perpetrator, Specialist Neutzling decided not to report the rape to command. She didn’t say a word about her rape for a week until another woman in her unit informed her that her perpetrators were showing a video of the rape and bragging about it. After learning this, Specialist Neutzling reported the rapes to her command.

So what happened this time? Her command told Specialist Neutzling that they did not believe that she had been raped because she “didn’t act like a rape victim” and “did not struggle

enough.” Her unit commander also told her that he decided not to disclose Specialist Neutzling’s allegations of rape to the investigative services because he didn’t want the men separated from their unit. If the men were charged, they would have to stay in Iraq or would have to go to Kuwait.

Additionally, Specialist Neutzling’s command unilaterally downgraded her complaint of rape to sexual harassment. Her assailants were scheduled to leave in 2 weeks, and they left on time facing no charges.

In the current military chain of command structure, the commander did nothing wrong. Commanders can issue virtually any punishment, or in this case, no punishment at all. Command has complete authority and discretion over how a degrading and violent assault or rape under their command is handled. They are the judge and jury.

We need to end this unjust and horrific pattern, and we need to end it now. That’s why I have introduced H.R. 3435, the STOP Act, because it’s time. It’s time to stop this horrific culture in the military.

AMERICA IS NOT BROKE

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I have listened to a lot of Republicans here on the House floor and back in Connecticut talk about how they think that the only way to build up America is to tear down government and start divesting from our public institutions. That’s simply not the history of this country. Over the last 100 years, we’ve become the world’s leader by layering massive private investment on top of massive public investment. And yet day after day, I listen to the right wing come down to this floor and tell the American people that we can no longer afford to make these kinds of investments that we used to make in roads, in rails, in schools, and in new technologies.

And, so, it’s time that the rest of us stood up here and told them that they’re simply wrong, that America is not broke. We have all of the resources and all of the willpower necessary to make the investments we need in order to regain our global competitive edge, but only if we start dealing with facts rather than just with political rhetoric.

So, over the next few minutes, I want to show you four pretty simple charts that debunk this myth that our Nation is broke and that we can’t muster the resources necessary to meet the challenges of a global century.

Let’s start here. The United States is still the richest country in the world. In fact, our GDP ranks us at the top of the list among G-20 countries. And for all of the talk about the rise of China, India, and Brazil, our country is still