vacuuming tax dollars out of the pockets of the private sector at a record pace.

Still, today, the majority will not even propose a budget, much less one that achieves balance, and instead, funds the government and inflates the currency through massive omnibus bills and continuing resolutions.

We need to return to regular order in this House and return to fiscal sanity to rescue this economy from a recession that looms large in what is likely to be a long, hot summer for millions of American families.

OUR ECONOMY IS BOOMING

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the record-breaking number of jobs created under President Biden's watch, his plan to lower costs for hard-working American families, and our plan to continue building a better America.

Since President Biden took office, the economy has added 8.7 million new jobs—8.7 million new jobs. That is staggering. Fun fact, Mr. Speaker, this is the most jobs added in any President's first 16 months. I repeat: The most jobs added in any President's first 16 months. This is historic.

The fact that the economy is booming is no accident. You see, President Biden laid the foundation for an amazing recovery through his American Rescue Plan and vaccination program. This plan got people back to work, kids back in schools, and helped the American economy bounce back.

Together, with President Biden, House Democrats are not only bringing back jobs, but we are growing paychecks for households across the country. Because of this, unemployment is near historic lows, and even better, the number of Americans relying on unemployment benefits has dropped by more than 90 percent. This is huge.

In short, our Nation has recovered 96 percent of the jobs lost during the pandemic and is on track to return to prepandemic employment levels before the end of the year.

Mr. Speaker, this is a direct result of President Biden's leadership, Congress' partnership, and the backing of the American people.

While many Americans are back at work, we have heard calls from hard-working families struggling with the cost of inflation. Sadly, Putin's war against Ukraine is now the biggest single driver of inflation, but we have a plan for this too.

I am proud to report that House Democrats and President Biden are acting to lower gas prices by fighting Putin's price hike. The United States is on track to produce a record amount of oil next year, and coming from Texas, that is music to our ears, and the President is working with the industry to accelerate this output.

Democrats are also laser focused on lowering everyday costs for families at the grocery store, and they are also improving the supply chain. We are fighting for everyday Americans by reducing the cost of everyday goods through the COMPETES Act.

This landmark legislation will lower costs and strengthen our supply chains by making more products right here in America: Made in USA. Again, this will create more jobs.

We also have great news on the Federal deficit. Biden is still on track to drop the budget deficit by $1.6 trillion this year alone.

Mr. Speaker, another fun fact, President Biden has cut the deficit more this year than any President in history. I repeat, more than any President in history. In contrast, Mr. Speaker, the Trump administration increased the Federal budget deficit every single year they were in office.

All things considered, President Biden and House Democrats are not only working together to continue building a better America for all Americans, but we are delivering on that promise, and we will continue to do just that—delivering on our promise.

□ 1030

PUTTING AMERICANS LAST

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, as the 4-day tour occurs inside the Capitol on January 6, where a loaded, biased committee attempts to parse the words of the President on the day, we have many other crises to deal with in this country that are directly affecting and harming the American people, their ability to do their basic day-to-day operation of their homes, get to their jobs, get their kids to school.

So what are we doing? What are we doing? Chasing January 6. Look at our border right now, where under the current Biden policies, we are attracting the largest caravan ever of illegal aliens heading toward our border. The idea that we are going to get rid of title 42 or just the general porosity of the border anyway. It has been a giant magnet ever since January 20, 2021, when this President came in and started shredding our border policy.

We had success under President Trump, where we had the best control of the border we had in quite a while, with approximately 450 additional miles of rebuilt or new fence that was very effective in those zones.

So what do we have now? We have warehouses and stacks and pallets of fence material, millions of dollars' worth of it, lying about on our southern border being stored instead of installed.

We heard some chatter here a couple months ago from the Biden administration, well, maybe we should just go ahead and put up those additional pieces there where there are some obvious gaps.

I had a chance to visit Yuma, Arizona a few weeks ago. It was pretty incredible because there would be miles of fence, but there would be these gaps occasionally, and that is where people would pour through illegally. Amazing.

We could rectify that by just filling a lot of the gaps, thereby making our Customs and Border Patrol job much easier by being able to focus on fewer areas instead of wide-open spaces or gaps all along our border.

But, no, it seems to be about some other agenda. 15,000 people possibly will crowd the border here soon under the idea that we are going to possibly let title 42 go. Thankfully, two different courts have stopped that.

So what are we doing? The terrorists come across our border really almost unchecked. They capture a handful of them, but how many are getting by that get away? We don't know that. Are they starting cells right here in our country? Why not?

As we know, in April, there were over 230,000 encounters, they call them, at the southern border. That is the highest in U.S. history for one month. Why is this? Because we have a giant magnet, again, turned on by this administration saying, come on across. You only need to have a sliver of an excuse for asylum.

The asylum law needs to be changed if that is how they are going to enforce it because it has to be for a true threat. You also have to seek asylum in the country closest to you, if you are an asylum seeker and that is what you are really after, but one closest to you, not pick and choose what country you are going to move up to, basically the United States with all the benefits it hands out.

According to polling, when you ask the American people, who are worried about gas and groceries or whether another load of formula is going to come in from Europe on a military transport in time for their small children to be able to have the type of food that they are accustomed to, the majority of Americans disapprove of the Biden administration's operation of our borders, especially the elimination of title 42, which is a health risk issue.

When you talk about the issue of formula, we are putting Americans last, when the Biden administration prioritized shipments of pallets of baby formula to the border holding stations instead of across the fruited plain. It is pretty pathetic. Indeed, it was this administration whose FDA stepped in on the major producer of formula and said: We are going to shut you down because we had a couple of incidents that have been reported.

So what happens? The FDA didn't call back when the company that is the major producer of formula asks, What is it we need to do to be in compliance in your eyes? The administration knew about this, yet they prioritized what