

the city, and somewhat embarrassingly, I handed the keys to the attendant and said to him: Sorry, I have five children.

He looked at me and smiled. He says: Oh, don't worry. I have seven children, and they are going to take care of me when I am old.

I looked back at him, and I also smiled. I said: You know what that is called? That is called social security.

He then said: I like that. Could I say that?

I said: You can say it all that you like.

Mr. Speaker, while we think of Social Security as that important retirement security program, which is so essential to so many people, I want to take a moment to just explore a broader understanding of how we find our security together as a people, as a Nation.

I want to re-imagine this term "Social Security" in a wider sense of the phrase, what it means to find belonging, protection, and mutual support. Ultimately, society depends upon a binding set of narratives and an agreement with one another about one fundamental fact: the agreement that we should care about each other, that we are committed to one another, and that we have a common vision.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Americans are continuing to confront a number of longstanding challenges to our country's well-being. Let's be honest. There is widespread distrust of government, and the economy's capacity is sadly deepening a sense of division and further fracturing our society as more and more people seem to feel left out.

Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, our Nation still does have great character and great strength, found first and foremost in durable values that keep us resilient with the ability to adapt and change, even in the most turbulent of times. So although there is justifiable anxiety and anger at the present moment—in fact, they are a hallmark of the present moment—Americans do desire a new settlement of both security and opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, here is the dilemma: a constant focus on a Washington-based solution offers a false sense of solidarity and is no substitute for community. Technocratic management through centralized government cannot rekindle the vibrancy of our society. And far from healing our wounded culture, the government simply cannot fix everything that is wrong. Doing so, attempting to do so will simply recalculate winners and losers. This is especially true when America's political system suffers from so much discord and dysfunction.

So here is the answer: a hopeful politics and a truly good society are ultimately relational. For instance, although we are not immune from harsher downward trends where I live, we have, in my State of Nebraska, to some degree, I believe, safeguarded the importance of community, the necessity and integrity of the family, and the

quality of care for ourselves as well as those around us.

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I am proud of this fact, Mr. Speaker. I often refer to it as the Nebraska model. Such social vibrancy reduces the necessity for government intervention and actually creates happier outcomes.

Mr. Speaker, the Social Security program itself is so critical to protecting the well-being of America's seniors. I believe strongly in this program, as so many others do.

In fact, when I was a child, I received Social Security myself due to the premature death of my father when I was 12 years old. It helped get the family through. This is an important program for America's security and for peace of mind of so many of our elder citizens.

But I think a broader view of this concept, this ideal, of Social Security demands that we regasp the ideals of community and interdependency with one another. Proper progress in our Nation recognizes that our individual liberty is not merely a license to do whatever we want.

A hyper sense of individualism can obscure the foundational truth of our shared humanity, which longs for community. It inhibits the common endeavors necessary for advancing a brighter future together as a nation, as one people.

Liberty and, therefore, human happiness are inextricably intertwined with our society, with our responsibility to one another, and that is what gives fullness to the meaning of Social Security.

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

CONTAMINATED WATER IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about the cities of America—at least many of the cities of America.

While I was waiting for the opportunity to speak to the House and people of America, I went into the cloakroom and pulled out today's Roll Call, one of what we call the Hill rags. These are one of the newspapers around the Hill.

It says "Lead in the Water, Way Beyond Flint," and it talks about the issue of contamination in our water supplies. Indeed, they are quite correct.

This would be one of maybe 20 different slides I could put up here. What do these cities of America have in common: Flint, Michigan; Toledo, Ohio; Sebring, Ohio; Baltimore, Maryland; Brick Township, New Jersey; Washington, D.C.; Wayne County, North Carolina; Greenville, North Carolina;

Lakehurst Acres, Maine; Chicago, Illinois; Porterville, California? The list goes on and on and on. These are cities that have or have had contaminated water in the last couple of years. Some of these are ongoing.

We hear a lot of discussion about Flint, Michigan, and the tragedy of the water supply in Flint, Michigan, the lead contamination, the 8,000 or 9,000 children who have been inflicted with lead poisoning, and the incredible, awful effect that that will have on the development of their brain and of their future.

This issue is one that we are becoming aware of. Actually, we have been aware of it for a long, long time. The problem is that we haven't done anything about it or we have done very, very little about it.

Tonight we are going to talk about contaminated water in America, America's cities and towns that are providing water that is not fit to drink.

So what to do? Well, we are going to have to deal with the realities of 8,000 to 9,000 children, their development, the potential problems that they face in their lives ahead. That will be basically dealing with the fact that we had contaminated water in Flint, Michigan, and in a host of other cities.

We can't live without water. The human body requires it. If you don't get it, you are going to die very, very quickly. The fact of the matter is I am not at all sure you can live with contaminated water.

That is the actual water that was available to residents of Flint, Michigan: yucky, yellow, contaminated, polluted water. Not just lead, but yuck. Why would you want to drink that? Well, it is all you have. So you don't want to, but you really don't have any choice. Contaminated water, what to do?

Tonight we are going to discuss this issue. I guess one thing you can do is what California did. In Porterville, California, when the wells went dry, they brought a cattle water trough similar to what I have on my ranch to provide water for my cattle. This water trough provided water for the children of Porterville, California.

Now, there is a solution to the water crisis in California. Porterville isn't the only city or town in the San Joaquin Valley. In fact, there are dozens of towns in the San Joaquin Valley of California, the largest State, the richest State.

We like to think of California, my home State, as being ahead of everything. I guess we are ahead in providing cattle water troughs to provide water for children in California. We ought to be ashamed.

What are we going to do about it? There are 435 people here in the House of Representatives, and I guess there is another 100 Senators across the way, a President, and all the administration. What are we going to do about it? I guess we can look at our report card.

This is from the American Society of Civil Engineers. Let's see. The 2013 report card for America's infrastructure: Aviation, D; bridges, C plus; dams, D; down here, schools, D; roads, railroads, Cs; water—oh, here we are—water, a D.

We asked them about this. We said: Why a D?

They said: We would give them an F, but it is too much trouble to try to figure out how to do an F. So we just go to the lowest, which is D.

You don't get any lower than a D from the American Society of Civil Engineers. That is our report card in America, folks. It is not just water. It is the entire infrastructure system.

You are wondering why. Why does that happen? Take a look at this little chart. A sharp drop in government infrastructure spending. Let's see. That is 2002.

In 2002, \$330 billion spent on all infrastructure: roads, bridges, airports, water systems, sanitation systems. \$325 billion in 2002.

And in real 2014 dollars, nondefense spending on infrastructure, here we are in 2012, 2013. We are down to about \$200 billion, about \$125 billion less spent on infrastructure of all kinds.

Oh. Back to water. What about water? Where did we go with water? Spending on clean water and drinking water infrastructure in 2014 deflated dollars, go back to 1973.

In 1973, the Vietnam war was still going on. Let's see. That would be somewhere around \$10 billion in 2014 dollars in 1973. In 2016, we are down to \$2 billion.

Don't be surprised when you see a list such as I put up a moment ago of cities in the United States that have water problems. Aging infrastructure, lead pipes.

Here is a picture of a lead pipe. Corroded. You wonder why kids get lead poisoning. If you don't spend money on infrastructure, you are going to wind up with sick kids, you are going to wind up with bridges that collapse, you are going to wind up with a second-rate economy and a third-world water situation.

By the way, that is the bridge on Interstate 5, the road from Canada to Mexico down the Pacific coast. The bridge collapsed.

What happens when you don't spend money on infrastructure? Your economy fails, your kids get sick, and they are forced to drink water out of a water trough. This is not the America we want to live in. This is not the America the public sent us here to provide for them.

We like to think of ourselves as the strongest, biggest, best country in the world, and we are in many respects, but when it comes to providing for the fundamentals of life—water—we get a D rating.

We get kids getting their water supply out of a water trough. We get kids in Flint, Michigan, who are poisoned with lead. That is not the only city. It is across the United States, city after city.

In the Central Valley of California, it is arsenic, it is lead, it is other contaminants. Huh-uh. We have got work to do here in the House of Representatives. It is our responsibility. It is our task. We can't toss it off to somebody else.

So, yeah, Roll Call, you are correct: "Lead in the Water, Way Beyond Flint." Arsenic in the water. Fecal contamination in the water. You name it. City after city, ancient systems, more than 100 years old, lead pipes which were put in the ground a century ago, leaching lead into the food supply. That is America.

What would it cost? About \$348 billion just for the water systems. How can we pay for it? Well, there is a way.

Oh, America, are you aware that we are into a new nuclear arms race? We are. In the next 25 years, a trillion dollars of your tax money is going to be spent on a total rearmament of our nuclear weapons systems: intercontinental ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, submarines, stealth aircraft. A trillion dollars.

City after city in America limps along, poisoning its children with 100-year-old water systems. We have got some choices to make here. What are we going to spend your tax money on? New nuclear bombs or new water pipes? Choices.

Joining me tonight to discuss these sets of issues are some of my dear friends. PAUL TONKO and I have been working on this infrastructure issue for 5 years now, what we call the East Coast-West Coast. I am going to ask Paul if he would wait just a few moments.

SHEILA JACKSON LEE, you were in Flint, Michigan, last week—I guess yesterday, actually, for a discussion in Flint, Michigan. Share with us briefly, if you would, your reflections on what you saw there.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Thank you very much. And I thank the gentleman from New York for his kindness in my brief support of all of you on the floor.

Let me first of all acknowledge, as I indicated, your potent and powerful question to America of \$348 billion to solve our problem and are our children that valuable or are our children worth it. My answer is yes.

Let me add my appreciation, though I know that he would not want to be in this predicament, to Congressman KILDEE and the entire Michigan delegation who were there on Saturday.

They stood arm in arm listening to Flint residents just to see how painful it is to hear a mother talk about a child with spots all over his body and to have her point to other children and say, "They are getting sick, and I have lost my hair" or a teacher say, "I have children coming to school with pus sores."

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So, let me say a few points. I sit on the Judiciary Committee. And also have the privilege of sitting on the

Oversight and Government Reform Committee as a guest. I just want to say that we need to hold someone accountable, which will then generate into what the solution is.

April 2014, a nonscientist—I just came out of the Rules Committee on science legislation—made a decision to go to Flint River. He had no anti-corrosion plan. Really, there lies the source of problems throughout a number of these cities that you have indicated. You had one with non-toxins. They were just breaking the law and suffering because of lack of money. Saving \$5 million has resulted in spending multiple millions of dollars—maybe \$1 billion-plus—to try and salvage this great city.

With Governor Snyder, of course, there is no accountability. Just to show you an example, it is very difficult to read these emails that were released. The Governor indicates that this was not relevant to the issue.

The main point is that while we are talking about the infrastructure—and I do support Mr. KILDEE's effort as well as our colleagues in the Senate to help this city of 765 million, we must also hold ourselves accountable—this body of Republicans and Democrats who know that we must invest in infrastructure.

As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I sent a letter early in January asking for an investigation by the Department of Justice. The FBI is now investigating. We want to make sure there is a review of whether there is malfeasance.

So, I come to the floor today to say there are many questions and there must be many answers. I want to make sure there is an accountable standard. I want to say to the American people that we can't have a city like Flint, where decisions are made—General Motors, by the way, stopped using the water—that we have no anticorrosion plan. This is happening across America, partly, because cities are broke and because we have not invested in the overall infrastructure of America, as you, Mr. GARAMENDI have said on the floor over and over again.

So, I wanted to come to the floor to thank my colleagues. Knowing how painful it is to represent that area, I thank Congressman KILDEE for his leadership. Congresswoman LAWRENCE, who is a neighbor, is working with him. Congressman CONYERS, Congresswoman DINGELL, SANDY LEVIN, and some Senators have all been working so hard on this issue.

Count me in as a collaborator as we stand before the American people and say: Send me. We are prepared to fight for more infrastructure to help cities across America.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I thank the gentlewoman from Texas. I know that your concerns are very real. You traveled to Flint, and you have been working on these issues for many, many years. Thank you for your participation.

Tomorrow, the Democrats are holding their own committee hearing on this issue. I am certain that we will go through the issues that you talked about: what actually happened and who is actually responsible. So, that will be a discussion for tomorrow. Perhaps we will cover it on the floor tonight.

Let me now turn to my colleague from New York, Mr. PAUL TONKO, for the continuation of the East-West show.

Mr. TONKO. Thank you, Representative GARAMENDI, for leading us in what is a very important bit of discussion.

In a broad term, infrastructure is something that needs our immediate attention because of years of neglect, but it comes to that water infrastructure that has been highlighted of late. I like to call it the hidden infrastructure. It can't be out of sight, out of mind. That would be a very painful outcome if that is the approach that is taken by certainly us as legislators or by society at large.

You are right: for a number of years, we have been discussing infrastructure. I have made it my goal to invest in water infrastructure for a number of reasons, but also because of my assignment on the Energy and Commerce Committee as ranking—the lead Democrat—on the Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy, which reports to the Energy and Commerce Committee. It is through that subcommittee that the assignment of the Safe Drinking Water Act is housed. So it is important for us to maintain a vigilance, if you will, for the outcomes that are deemed acceptable—and that is that we do not receive a D on our report card for water infrastructure.

When you shared that information, Representative GARAMENDI, I thought to myself that if any of us brought home a D on a report card, there would be a little bit of a challenge offered our way to improve that report card with the next semester. So, I believe that we have failed in this effort to maintain a strong Federal partnership.

There has been a lot of finger pointing going on since the Flint, Michigan, issue arose in the public's awareness as a national issue. That finger pointing won't solve anything. But if we are going to finger point, we need to also internalize that. We need to look at Congress and what it has done.

When you talked about the levels of funding, in the early seventies, I came onto my county board in 1976, in Montgomery County in upstate New York. I can vividly recall that we had a very lucrative revenue flow from the Federal Government for our water systems.

Today, what we look at is something like a 4 percent investment coming from the Federal Government on the total bill. That is grossly inadequate. The fact that we can turn our backs on this infrastructure and allow situations like Flint, Michigan; Sebring, Ohio; Troy, New York; or Los Angeles, California, to grip us, to shock our

senses and not respond, leaves us in a very pitiful state, I believe.

We need to do better than that. We need to form a plan of action. That plan of action must include a stronger investment in the water infrastructure of this country.

Now, some of that also requires, I think, an enhancement of the investment made in the drinking water SRF, or the State Revolving Fund. That fund has not been reauthorized since 2003. So we need to go forward and reauthorize and enhance the SRF so that our States, as partners with the Federal Government, can then go forward and have some relief in responding to the strapped cities that are really impacted by a declining tax base, in many cases, and the very small bit of population in some of our rural communities that are trying to maintain systems that want to speak to public health and public safety and to offer a commodity that is not only important, but essential.

It is essential for the quality of life in our homes, it is essential for small businesses, it is essential for our manufacturing base, it is essential for our farming community. All of this requires water. Many suggest that we are transitioning from an oil-based economy to a water-based economy.

So, if we are anticipating greater use and reliance on water as a commodity, let's put our act into working order. That means that you invest not like we did last year, where the outcome was at some \$843 million, which was some \$43 million worth of a cut. That is completely going in the wrong direction. That is not listening to the needs of local government or to the basic, core essential need of sound drinking water, clean drinking water.

It is blue infrastructure. That is what we need to invest in—making certain that we have an abundance and an essential supply of clean drinking water. It is absolutely mandatory in a modern economy. If we are going to compete effectively in an innovation economy, we need to provide the essentials, including water, to the business, residential, and ag community.

When I look at some of the neglect, it is so interesting to see that we wait for crises like that of Flint. Does Flint require Federal investment? Absolutely. I stand ready and willing to assist Flint. I would rank what happened there as immoral.

So, we need to move forward and assist Flint, but the saga shouldn't begin and end there. We need to create a national response that empowers our communities across the country. We need to have interaction and dialogue at the table to best understand where we have fallen down, where we have failed.

We need to have officials from Flint, Michigan, and from the State of Michigan here to testify. I don't think it is appropriate for Governor Snyder of that State to walk away from that invitation.

It is important for us to go forward with the sort of communication, the dialogue, that will build the soundest response. And if we do not respond out of necessity to Flint, Michigan; Troy, New York, Sebring, Ohio; and Los Angeles, and the list continues to grow, we will then just see these issues keep rising in our communities.

When I last saw Troy, New York's dilemma, they were repairing things in the worst weather—conditions that were near zero, where they needed to heat the site in order to weld the materials that were completing the project. A major line, Representative GARAMENDI, broke. It was their main line. A 33-inch pipe was shooting water 100 feet into the air. Ten million gallons of water went into the street.

Are we going to sit back and say that is acceptable in a Nation like this—a Nation of abundance—that considers itself a world leader? No world-leading nation can ignore its infrastructure like we have ignored the water infrastructure.

Blue infrastructure is what we should be about: providing that clean drinking water. We have nearly a quarter of a million breaks annually in the systems from coast-to-coast. A quarter of a million. There are 700-some breaks per day.

Think about it. That wouldn't be acceptable to an ordinary business plan of any type. It should not be acceptable to the Federal Government plan in assisting communities with the sound commodity of drinking water.

So, Representative GARAMENDI, I am just thrilled to join you this evening to continue to carry the message forward that we need action, we need a plan of action, we need commitment, and we need resources. It begins now. Every missed opportunity here will perhaps cause the opportunity for yet another tragedy in a community that just should not happen.

Again, it is about investing soundly, effectively, and appropriately, in what it is an essential commodity: water for our communities.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. TONKO, thank you so very, very much. You brought to this issue enormous facts and passion. Your work as the ranking member on the subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee positions you in a very, very important place. Your passion and knowledge should help carry the day on this.

Mr. TONKO, if you can stick around, we will come back to this one more time.

I would like now to call on my colleague from California, Mr. TED LIEU from Los Angeles.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Thank you, Representative GARAMENDI, for your work on clean water and for highlighting this issue in Flint, as well as in communities across America.

I sit on the Oversight Committee. On February 3, we held a hearing on the Flint water crisis. Based on the information presented, it is clear to me that

what happened in Flint was a crime of epic proportions. Tens of thousands of women, children, and men were poisoned when lead leached from lead pipes into the drinking water. Those who were most responsible know who they are. They should resign. Some of them should be prosecuted.

We need to make sure that we do what is right for the residents of Flint, as well as other communities across America, and make sure this never happens again. It is clear that this is not an issue just in Flint, but the problem with toxic water is an issue across our Nation.

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Washington, D.C., had elevated levels of lead in 2000. Sebring, Ohio, now has elevated levels of lead. And there was a report by the Natural Resources Defense Council in 2011 that showed 19 cities had toxic issues with their drinking water.

There are a variety of solutions. First of all, we need to fund the CDC lead abatement program that had been cut by the Republican legislature in 2002. We need to restore funding and fully fund that program.

We need to also make a strong investment in improving our water infrastructure. I sit on the Budget Committee. I will be putting in amendments to make sure that we increase funding to water infrastructure across America.

And we need to look at alternatives to lead pipes. An article in Salon noted that we have many cities across America now using PVC pipes, also known as plastic pipes, as an eco-friendly alternative.

Canadian and American cities have had success with these pipes. They last longer than metal pipes, over 100 years. They do not corrode. They do not leach, and they do not contain lead.

What is happening in Flint, they are looking at a short-term solution, which is to recoat their lead pipes. I believe that is not acceptable. I believe the Governor needs to come in and replace all the lead pipes with a nonlead alternative.

The mayor of Flint has called for full replacement. I support that. I know Representative GARAMENDI and others support that.

I want to give great credit to the great work by Representative KILDEE for his constituents in Flint.

I also want to note that if we don't do something now, who knows whether your children or your grandchildren will be poisoned by lead in your drinking water.

It is very important that we make enormous infrastructure investments, and the time to do that is now.

Thank you again, Representative GARAMENDI, for highlighting this issue.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. LIEU, you said you are on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. You had the hearing last week and began the process of developing an understanding of

what happened and who was responsible. Critically important.

You also said you are on the Budget Committee. So if I might just lobby you for a moment—

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Absolutely.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Let me just lobby you. You are going to be taking up the budget—I think tomorrow, actually.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. We have various markups coming up. That is correct.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Okay. So the budget is going to be coming up, and that is the allocation of the \$4 trillion that the Federal Government will spend. We will be spending it on education. We will be spending it on roads, on the military and the like.

Let me just toss you some numbers for your consideration. Now, these are adjusted 2015 dollars, so we are keeping equal-value dollars.

In 2007, the State Revolving Fund for Drinking Water, which Mr. TONKO talked about, had \$957 million for that program. That goes to the States to repair their water systems. And it stayed around \$900 million the next year.

And then we had the stimulus bill in 2009, and we spent \$3 billion. Then we went back down, \$1.5 billion, \$1 billion, \$947 million, and we stayed somewhere in the range of \$900 million through 2016. So that is the current year. And that is \$863 million that we are spending this year on the State Revolving Fund.

Keep in mind that it is estimated that we need \$328 billion to repair all the pipes.

Now, the President's budget has \$1.2 billion for the coming year. He just introduced that today.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Right.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Okay. Also, in the President's budget, he has \$1.36 billion for the new Long Range Strike Bomber; \$113 million for a ground-based strategic deterrence; \$1.4 billion for the Ohio class submarine—those are nuclear submarines; the new long-range cruise missile, \$995 million; to rebuild the B61 bomb, \$137 million; and the total amount that the National Nuclear Security Administration is spending this new year, 2017, \$9.24 billion.

Now, it would seem to me that this is just in the nuclear enterprise. These are our nuclear weapons.

So my lobbying is this: When you put together the budget, could you somehow squeeze out of the nuclear arms race that we are engaged in about a billion dollars so that we can stop poisoning our children?

Mr. TED LIEU of California. You made some very good points. And, as you know, America is the leading economy in the world. Our GDP is greater than the next two countries combined. We certainly have the resources to make sure we don't poison our kids with lead in their water or other toxic material.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Just double, if you would, just double the amount we are

spending for the clean drinking water programs at the Federal level from about \$1 billion to, let's say, \$2 billion, or maybe even \$3 billion, by squeezing some of the expenditures that we find in other accounts.

My particular target is the nuclear weapons account, which will in the next 25 years cost the American taxpayers \$1 trillion. So when you go to the hearing, keep that in mind.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Thank you for raising that issue. I will absolutely look into it. I am glad you brought it up. So let me look into that issue.

I do want to say something about what Representative TONKO mentioned, which is the hundreds of water main breaks we have daily. That just shows a crumbling infrastructure. In America, in the 21st century, that should not be happening.

What we saw in Flint and we are seeing in other cities across America is a result of disinvestment in our government, in cities and municipalities. You get what you pay for, and right now, we are getting children that are being poisoned with lead. So we need to increase investment.

I will look into the issues you raised, Representative GARAMENDI. Thank you for highlighting these issues.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I appreciate the opportunity to lobby you. You are in a very important position, as are all of us; 435 of us are going to make choices about what is important and how we spend our constituents' tax money. And these are choices we are going to make.

We often don't really look at it, but the budget that will be forthcoming, the President's budget, and then the response of this House to that budget, will allocate that \$4 trillion across a whole variety of programs.

We really do have the opportunity here, as we put together the budget and then the appropriations following, to take up the challenge that Mr. TONKO put before us in the State Revolving Fund.

Mr. LIEU, thank you so very much for joining us.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Thank you. I look forward to working with you and Representative TONKO and others to make sure we invest in America.

Mr. GARAMENDI. We appreciate you being here. Thank you so very much.

Well, Mr. TONKO, lead pipes.

Mr. TONKO. Lead pipes. The \$863 million in the Drinking Water SRF of which I spoke is a lot of money. But when you put it into context of maybe 10 million lead service lines in the country, when you think of infrastructure that is beyond 100 years old—when I did tours—I have been doing tours in my district of the water systems, and I have found systems as old as 145 years. That is when Rutherford B. Hayes was in the White House.

And I saw pipes that were 8-inch in diameter reduced to 4-inch flow because of calcification. I saw pipes removed because of corrosion by the acidity of soils that has taken its toll.

You think of new technology, invention, innovation, gauges that can be utilized, liners that can be put in certain pipes for extending the useful life, things that we can be doing that provide for preventative maintenance and speak to public health and public safety.

You know, it is a bit of wonderment, isn't it, that we will trade our cell phones every other year, or perhaps every year, because they have got a new product on the shelf; or will trade in our screens, our TV screens, because they are simply not big enough; or the car has got too many miles or we just came to dislike the color, and so we trade in the automobile every three, 4 years. But we are content to live with water pipes for 145 years. It defies human logic. Why do we accept that?

Why don't we dig into this hidden infrastructure and invest in a way that will avoid thousands of families being impacted by contamination of lead?

Children, innocent children impacted by societal neglect. Investment that ought to be highest priority, not put on the back burner.

Well, the response, as we know, is: How are you going to pay for it? What is the cost?

What is the cost of doing something? Let's contrast that with the cost of not doing something.

What are the bills going to be?

For Flint, Michigan, alone, we don't think people are going to stay silent with this tragedy in their lives. What is the impact to industry?

When I saw these lines burst in the city of Troy, New York, this winter, businesses were shut down. Schools were shut. They were closed for days. Families didn't have water in their homes.

What is the cost? What is the price tag?

So it needs to be a framework that is large enough to calculate the human impact, the financial impact, societal impact, the economic consequences. These are real.

Again, we are a country, a people that can claim the pioneer spirit within our DNA. How do we dare say "no" to what ought to be a sound investment, to grow jobs, maintain jobs, to compete effectively on a global scale in an innovation economy?

We can do better. We must do better.

And when we look at the situations out there where we have convinced ourselves that we are not worthy of investment, that is not leadership. We are trying to stall and pass it on to the next generation.

Well, this generation that will be that next generation of leaders is being impacted healthwise as we speak. Unacceptable. Immoral. We can do better.

Representative GARAMENDI, I know there are voices that really want to produce here and do this progressive bit of investment that will strengthen our communities.

Mr. GARAMENDI. As you were talking, I think back when I was growing

up, and we used to call this, not infrastructure, we used to call this "public works." Public works.

This is for the public. It is infrastructure, but this is the public investment in the things that an individual, even a private company, cannot do. This is something that we do as a community in the public domain.

It is work. We are talking, if we were to invest \$2 billion this coming year in these community water systems, we would actually generate thousands of jobs, and we would increase the economic growth immediately.

It has been estimated that for every dollar you put into public works, infrastructure, you immediately increase the economy by \$1.3, \$1.4. So this is a way of investing immediately, putting people to work in good, middle class jobs, and laying in the public works for future economic growth and, as you just said so eloquently, protecting our health, our children's health. So this is absolutely essential.

We are at a very propitious moment. The President proposed today the budget for the United States of America's next fiscal year, beginning October 1, 2016.

□ 2000

It is his proposal on how to spend about \$4 trillion of taxpayer money and debt. We, as the representatives of the people of the United States, will take that and modify it.

What if we just made one modification in that \$4 trillion and said: We are going to spend an additional billion dollars or an additional \$2 billion on public works water systems? What would it mean?

The 140-year-old pipes that you talked about, could they be replaced? Could the 250,000 water main breaks across the United States be reduced to maybe just 200,000?

People going to work, engineers designing the system, financiers figuring out how to put together the local money, the State money, and the Federal money, generating jobs, growing our economy, and stopping the poisoning of our children.

The President proposed his budget today. Tomorrow our colleagues take up the budget and begin to decide how to move that money to things that are a priority. Here we are.

Mr. TONKO. Representative GARAMENDI, when we talk about the infrastructure hidden beneath the surface of the streets and scape of our communities, it is hard to imagine wooden pipes along with those decrepit 145-year-old pipes in calcification galore.

The enormity of the situation needs to be perhaps graphically shared. Under the city of Albany, the capital of New York, which is part of the 20th Congressional District that I represent, happens to lie 317 miles of pipe, drinking water infrastructure.

You could travel from Albany, New York, to Baltimore, Maryland. That is

the sort of linear responsibility associated with that system. Should we anticipate rightfully that there may be some bumps along the road of that 317-mile stretch in any given year?

Mr. GARAMENDI. A pothole, maybe?

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely. So let's think of it in those sorts of terms so that we can have a better understanding and awareness of an aged infrastructure, which, by the way, is also accompanied by a discontinued inventory in many cases.

Valves that are required are no longer manufactured. So we have to come up with some innovative response when there is a break.

While we have talked a lot about capital improvements, capital infrastructure, and physical infrastructure that is required to pay for and build back these systems, there is also that third leg of the stool: human infrastructure.

When I tour these water systems in my district, one of the learning curves is the declining effort of professionals—not their effort—the declining numbers of professionals who have the awesome responsibility of operating and maintaining these systems.

So the education, the training, the retraining, the higher education, and the certification of individuals who makes these systems work and provide for that water when you turn on the tap, they are there.

But there is an aging out because I think we have ignored this. So career paths have not been developed in the minds of students to go into this sort of science. And it is an important, awesome responsibility.

Will that institutional knowledge be passed on or will we just go without? So the human infrastructure is an important piece of this puzzle, also, to have the qualified women and men conducting their professionalism to serve the community.

So when you turn that tap on and anticipate—rightfully again—that clean drinking water is the result, think of all the decisionmaking, think of all the investment, think of the stewardship, and the operating know-how that is required. It is awesome.

It is also a system, as we have been shown, that, when there is failure, you can have a large number of people impacted and in severe measure.

So I believe that this Nation cares about its drinking water capacity and state of purity and sound condition. They want that abundant supply of clean water, and we need stronger partnership from the Federal level being more committed, more lucrative funding streams to the States, and then the States incorporating with their local communities to come up with innovative concepts.

My gosh, we are producing new materials that perhaps won't corrode as easily or that can retrofit the given systems. We have gauges that can tell us where the next break may come. So you are dealing with the know-how that provides for the most effective and

efficient outcome from a taxpayer perspective.

All of this technology with software to accompany it is available. But, again, the technical assistance, the grants, the loans—affordable loans—that we can advance to the communities are important steps in the process of providing for a 21st-century infrastructure.

We shouldn't be content with a D on our report card. D means devastating. D means dangerous. D means in decline. Let's move forward and advance for that A on the report card.

I know you wanted those As on your report card, Mr. GARAMENDI. I wanted them on mine.

Mr. GARAMENDI. The art of the possible. The art of the possible is what we have here.

Mr. TONKO, I don't know where you were when I brought this up. This is the drinking water in Flint, Michigan. That is a recent photo from a water tap in Flint, Michigan. Unacceptable. The bottom line is it is unacceptable. Not only is it dirty, it is poisonous.

Mr. TONKO. And frightening.

Mr. GARAMENDI. It is poisonous.

So we are going to make some choices. My plea to my colleagues here—and it echoes what you said—you can talk about it in terms of jobs. Thousands and thousands of jobs would be created if we invested in our infrastructure, our public works, and the water systems.

Is the money available to do it? If we make the right choice, it is. If we make the right choice to invest in ending the poisoning of our children, it is there. We can move \$4 trillion around in one way or another and build modern infrastructure. We could do that.

We are going to do it now. We are going to do it now. The issue of the budget begins today. In the United States Congress, 535 American citizens are brought to this Capitol to make decisions about the health and the safety of their children. We have been given that responsibility.

God knows there is enough money around \$4 trillion to find a way to spend the money to build the water systems to stop the poisoning of our children. It is just a matter of choices.

What do we choose to do? Refurbish a nuclear bomb that, God willing, we would never ever even think about using? That is our choice. It is our choice.

As your representatives, we can move money into providing the public works to meet the fundamental human need, in this case, drinkable, potable, safe water. It is fundamental.

You cannot live but 3 days without water, and the last 2 days aren't worth living anyway because you are comatose. Water. Choices. Public works. Investment in the future. Jobs today. Engineers, as you talked about. Financial. All of that.

It is disheartening. I hear my colleagues like SHEILA JACKSON LEE come in and talk about going to Flint,

Michigan. I will never forget Mr. KILDEE on the floor last Thursday.

I asked him to talk to me about that young child that you saw in your community that you represent. He said the kid turned to him and said: I am not going to be smart enough. We make choices.

Mr. TONKO. Think of the reduction in the quality of life there. We commend Representative KILDEE, Representative LAWRENCE, and all of the members of the Michigan delegation for the work that they have done.

Again, to the price tag, the cost, let's look at the other side. Earlier I talked about 7 billion—7 billion—gallons of water lost with these main breaks, with these breaks of any kind. 7 billion gallons.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Can we talk about the California drought in this context?

Mr. TONKO. Exactly. Can you ill afford any waste of water? But it is not just water coming through those pipes. It is tax dollars flowing with that water. It is treated water.

So it is foolish for us to continue along this path of hidden infrastructure mentality because, when it is not addressed, water and tax dollars—hard-earned constituent money—are flowing out of those pipes.

Before I came here, Representative GARAMENDI, you know that I worked at NYSERDA, the New York State Energy, Research, and Development Authority.

We got national awards for energy efficiency incorporated at water treatment facilities. So we took that effort to reduce the price tag of day-to-day operational costs.

There are ways to save money. A broken pipe is pouring money down the drain. So let's stop that foolish expenditure and go wisely to the investment that enables us with our intellect, our passion, and our sense of virtue to get things done correctly.

Generations before us had that vision. Pioneers built this country. People came here as immigrants and tethered their American Dream.

They climbed the ladder of opportunity and built strong communities based on that American Dream, and we in our present moment can't find it within ourselves to address those basic core needs?

We pride ourselves on being a modern society and having the luxury of clean water. The blue infrastructure moment is now. Let's invest in that clean water infrastructure. Let's not torture our communities. Let's not disrespect our children. We are better than that.

We have the engineering savvy. We have the academic prowess. We have the intellectual capacity. Now do we have the will? I believe we do.

I believe this country, if asked: "Do you want to invest in America's drinking water systems?" would say a resounding yes. Flint, Michigan; Sebring, Ohio; Los Angeles, California; Troy, New York—the list goes on and on.

If we do nothing, we should anticipate that this list will continue to

make a growing, passionate statement that we are dragging our feet. We are allowing a hidden infrastructure to be truly that, hidden, out of sight and out of mind.

Don't burden us with the responsibility. Don't share the facts. It is too painful. I don't want to hear that it is going to cost us something.

We see what the cost is. Representative GARAMENDI held up the photo of that polluted water, that poisonous water. That is unacceptable in a country as great as America. Unacceptable.

We have invested in the soundness of education, research, and innovation, and to not utilize the byproducts of those investments is sheer foolishness. It is not exercising the love of country that needs to be engaged in this Chamber and across the country.

We can get this done. I am a firm believer—firm believer—that, with voices resonating in chorus about this issue and the connected tragedies of disinvestment, we will get it done. We will get it done.

Representative GARAMENDI, I appreciate the efforts you make to bring these issues to the attention of the American public.

For those who listen at home and watch at home, encourage your representatives to get on board with the investment in our clean drinking water infrastructure. It is so critical.

This moment can bring us together. This isn't about a partisan issue. We didn't ask those children what party their families may be assigned, have chosen. This serves us all.

Let's go forward united in the voice and the passion to get it done, the determination and the integrity to say that we had a challenge and, in the old American way, we responded to it and succeeded.

Again, thank you for bringing us together.

□ 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. TONKO, I wasn't in Flint, Michigan when Representative KILDEE spoke to that young child—I think he was probably 4 or 5—who had been drinking this lead contaminated water, and was aware that he had been drinking the water. When that young kid turned to Mr. KILDEE and said: I am afraid I won't be smart enough, I visualize it.

My question to you, to myself, and to my colleagues here in the House of Representatives and across the way in the Senate is: Will we be smart enough to protect our children? I think we must be smart enough to do that.

Mr. TONKO. When it comes to smart, incorporating this work with the appropriate agencies—the EPA and the DEC in my home State of New York—there is a situation very close to my district in Hoosick Falls that is going through a similar contaminated water situation critical to their quality of life and their public health.

We need to advance that partnership, that soundness of checks and balances,

that will make certain that every bit of the way it is based on responsibility and professionalism and good faith efforts.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I was just thinking about your community that you mentioned, Albany and the like. I represent the University of California, Davis, in Davis, California. I think they have got maybe 12 wells that provide most of the water. About half of those wells are contaminated. They are building a new water system, and it should go online in the next few months, or maybe a year, or maybe sooner. They are investing. Perhaps they got some of this money from the State revolving fund.

It is an example of a community that wrestled with this for about a decade. They turned out to be smart enough to address it. They did it with their neighboring community of Woodland. A new water system is going into place. They will have safe drinking water.

There are other communities spread throughout California that don't have the same opportunity. It is our task to address this. I think we are smart enough to do so. I think there is enough money in the system to do it.

Mr. TONKO, would you like to do a quick 15 second wrap?

Mr. TONKO. I thank the speaker for the opportunity to share thoughts on the floor here this evening.

Blue infrastructure, let's get it done. Let's provide America one of her core basic needs.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3442, DEBT MANAGEMENT AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3293, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST ACT

Mr. SESSIONS (during the Special Order of Mr. GARAMENDI), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-420) on the resolution (H. Res. 609) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3442) to provide further means of accountability of the United States debt and promote fiscal responsibility, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3293) to provide for greater accountability in Federal funding for scientific research, to promote the progress of science in the United States that serves that national interest, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HUDSON (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of illness.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3033. An act to require the President's annual budget request to Congress each year to include a line item for the Research in Disabilities Education program of the National Science Foundation and to require the National Science Foundation to conduct research on dyslexia.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 10, 2016, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

4281. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's Annual Report of Interdiction of Aircraft Engaged in Illicit Drug Trafficking, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2291-4(c); Public Law 103-337, Sec. 1012 (as amended by Public Law 107-108, Sec. 503); (115 Stat. 1405); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4282. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-129, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(C); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 94-329, Sec. 211(a)); (82 Stat. 1326); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4283. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Ukraine that was declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4284. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to persons undermining democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe that was declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4285. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Annual Operating Plan for Colorado River System Reservoirs for 2016, pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 1552(b); Public Law 90-537, 602(b); (82 Stat. 900) and Public Law 102-575, Sec. 1804(c)(2); (106 Stat. 4671); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4286. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Permitted disparity in employer-provided contributions or benefits (Rev. Rul. 2016-05) received February 5, 2016, pursuant

to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4287. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final and temporary regulations — Allocation of Creditable Foreign Taxes [TD 9748] (RIN: 1545-BM57) received February 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4288. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Expatriate Health Plans Under the Affordable Care Act, Sec. 9010 (Notice 2016-14) received February 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, and Education and the Workforce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3036. A bill to designate the National September 11 Memorial located at the World Trade Center site in New York City, New York, as a national memorial, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 114-416). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 890. A bill to correct the boundaries of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Unit P16; with an amendment (Rept. 114-417). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. S. 1698. An act to exclude payments from State eugenics compensation programs from consideration in determining eligibility for, or the amount of, Federal public benefits (Rept. 114-1418). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 4180. A bill to improve Federal agency financial and administrative controls and procedures to assess and mitigate fraud risks, and to improve Federal agencies' development and use of data analytics for the purpose of identifying, preventing, and responding to fraud, including improper payments (Rept. 114-419). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SESSIONS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 609. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3442) to provide further means of accountability of the United States debt and promote fiscal responsibility, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3293) to provide for greater accountability in Federal funding for scientific research, to promote the progress of science in the United States that serves that national interest (Rept. 114-420). Referred to the House Calendar.

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 Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. HURT of Virginia, and Mr. TAKAI):