



## Up Front

*An excess of bravado.*

*By C.J. Hadley*

President Joe Biden bragged in December 2022, “We grew by one million jobs in the last quarter.” Within days, the “real” number dropped to 10,000, but by the end of the year, with a lot better arithmetic, actual jobs created by this old man and his administration was zero.

That was a moment to stop and enjoy my favorite Christmas present last year—a small wooden plaque that says, “When all else fails turn up the music and pet your dog.” I took the advice and laid off politics—at least until the critical fight in Congress to finally elect a speaker of the House on January 6.

The 15th roll-call vote in five days had been delayed due to constitutional action by 20 conservatives to force the new Congress to spend less, follow the rules of order, give 72 hours to read a bill before having to vote on it, and be more accountable to the American people. Called “chaos” by journalists, Dems and Rinos, it was way after midnight on January 7 when final tallies showed 216 votes for Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) and 214 for Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY).

Meanwhile, what’s happening in the once United States of America would be mesmerizing—if the fast and massive changes were not so terrifying. Corruption, debauchery, ignorance and criminality surround us. Half of the country doesn’t pay dues while the other half pays double. Children are being indoctrinated while felonious behavior in our largest once-beautiful cities is beyond reckoning. When good cops arrest insane, drug-infused or pure-evil predators, the George Soros-backed district attorneys in major cities have most back on the streets within hours. No bail. No personal responsibility. No serious charges if you steal less than a thousand bucks in merchandise from a hardworking shop owner, and not much jail time if you bludgeon old people, push innocents in front of subway trains, rape women in plain sight, destroy people’s livelihoods, vandalize federal buildings, tear down historic monuments, hurt cops and burn their cruisers.

After two years of no due process, abuse, solitary confinement and few charges for the

hundreds of mostly innocent “insurrectionist” Trump voters locked up in “D.C.’s Gulag,” Guantanamo would be a relief. These conservatives had no award-winning NBC producer choreographing a show like “The January 6th Committee” to encourage sympathy and plead their cases and need a tough defender like Brooklyn-born lawyer Hakeem Jeffries, now minority leader for the 118th Congress.

Jeffries, just before handing Nancy Pelosi’s gavel to new Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy, gave a passionate speech that was a good-versus-bad lesson in the ABC’s. He began by warning Democrats to “never compromise our principles,” and proceeded to list them using the 26 letters in the alphabet:

“We’ll always put American values over autocracy, benevolence over bigotry, the constitution over the cult, democracy over demagogues, economic opportunity over extremism, freedom over fascism, governing over gaslighting...maturity over Mar-A-Lago...reason over racism, substance over slander, triumph over tyranny, understanding over ugliness, voting rights over voter suppression, working families over the well connected, xenial over xenophobia, yes-we-can over you-can’t-do-it and zealous representation over zero sum confrontation.”

Half his audience was in ecstasy, the others pretty much like a gas balloon after it had been pricked. YouTube comments included:

*“Jeffries took the GOP, put them in a bag, took a bat to it, tossed it into a woodchopper and made them into mulch! I loved EVERY minute of it.”—William Klister*

*“Awesome speech, Mr. Jeffries! Democrats have accomplished so much because you put the people first. Thank you, Democrats, for your strength, unity, wisdom, sacrifice, and love for the people.”—Barbara Crowell*

*“I was mesmerized by his words. He subtly pinpointed just about everything a certain group did NOT want to hear.”—Connie Mazas*

Almost \$32 trillion in debt, is this how the leaders of the People’s House will work for our constitutional republic “across the aisle”? The chance of that happening is like the “million jobs created this quarter”—close to zero. And this affects us all. We can watch our trees burn, destroy America’s natural beauty with wind farms and solar panels, keep open borders, eat fake meat and let criminals win, or we can fight to bring our unique and precious country back. If we don’t, we should surrender our weapons, turn up the music and pet a dog.

Yours truly? I will continue to wave Old Glory and fight, but I will also turn up the music and pet my dogs. ■