

August 18, 2023

Franklin Center & Ripon Society Hold Policy Conference in London Examining the Special Relationship

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange and The Ripon Society held its annual policy conference, the TransAtlantic Capital to Capital Exchange, in London from August 7-11.

The 37th edition of the conference including meetings, panel discussions, standalone speakers, and breakout discussions focused on the Special Relationship which exists between the United States and the United Kingdom. Among the issue areas explored were health care, U.S.-UK defense cooperation and the future of NATO, global financial services, bilateral trade, corporate taxation, the challenges posed by China, energy security and climate change, immigration and refugee policy, and improving bipartisanship.

“The United States has no greater ally than the United Kingdom,” stated Jim Conzelman, the President and CEO of the Franklin Center and The Ripon Society. “With China on the rise and Russia once again a threat, the Special Relationship between the U.S. and UK has never been more important. The purpose of this policy conference was to learn more about some of the key challenges facing the Relationship, and the actions that should be taken to strengthen it in the years ahead.

“We were honored to be joined in these discussions by 24 Members of the U.S. House of Representatives — 18 Republicans and six Democrats. We were also honored to meet with and hear from some of the leading policymakers and policy experts in the UK, including three cabinet members, one minister from Britain’s shadow cabinet, 13 Members of the House of Commons, six Members of the House of Lords, and four top aides to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

“In this regard, we are especially appreciative of the assistance we received from Britain’s Ambassador to the U.S., Dame Karen Pierce, and her team at the British Embassy here in Washington. They were instrumental in helping us arrange many of these meetings and discussions, and we are grateful for their help in making this conference a success.”

Participants in the TransAtlantic Capital to Capital Exchange included representatives from the UK’s public and private sectors, and 24 Members of the United States Congress. The Members included U.S. Representatives Don Bacon (R-NE), Joyce Beatty (D-OH), Stephanie Bice (R-OK), Mike Bost

(R-IL), Larry Bucshon, M.D. (R-IN), Mike Carey (R-OH), Ed Case (D-IL), Ron Estes (R-KS), Randy Feenstra (R-IA), Andrew Garbarino (R-NY), Tony Gonzales (R-TX), Bill Huizenga (R-MI), Dusty Johnson (R-SD), Dave Joyce (R-OH), John Joyce, M.D. (R-PA), Dan Kildee (D-MI), Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), Darin LaHood (R-IL), Blake Moore (R-UT), Jay Obernolte (R-CA), Jimmy Panetta (D-CA), August Pfluger (R-TX), Steve Scalise (R-LA), and Terri Sewell (D-AL).

Also participating was former Representative Dave Camp (R-MI) who serves as Chair of the Franklin Center.

The conference officially kicked off on Monday with an in-country briefing at the U.S. Embassy London led by Matthew Palmer, the Chargé d’affaires of United States to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

He was joined by his embassy colleagues: Joseph Pennington, Minister Counselor for Political Affairs; Virginia Murray, Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs; Karin King, Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs; Capt. Gregory Leland, Senior Defense Official, Defense Attaché and Naval Attaché; Brenda VanHorn, Acting Regional Senior Commercial Officer for Northern Europe; and Rodney Ford, Minister Counselor for Public Affairs.

On Tuesday, the Congressional delegation had meetings at the Palace of Westminster with Members of Parliament and at 10 Downing Street with senior aides to the Prime Minister.

At Parliament, the Members of Congress met their counterparts from the British-American Parliamentary Group to discuss issues of interest to the U.S.-UK relationship, including trade, defense cooperation, and Ukraine.

Leading that meeting were The Rt Hon. Sir Conor Burns, MP (Conservative-Bournemouth West), The Rt Hon. John Spellar, MP (Labour-Warley), and Sir Christopher Hope, MP (Conservative-Christchurch). Leading from the U.S. side were Majority Leader Scalise and Rep. Sewell.

Also attending from Parliament were The Lord Carrington (Crossbench), The Lord Fox (Liberal Democrat), The Lord Gadhia (Non-affiliated), Jonathan Gullis, MP (Conservative-Stoke-on-Trent North), The Lord Dr. Hastings of Scarsbrick, CBE (Crossbench), James Murray, MP (Labour (Co-op)-Ealing

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The Congressional delegation at 10 Downing Street



Leader Scalise and Rep. Sewell present a plate to The Rt Hon. Sir Conor Burns, MP at Parliament



North), Ian Paisley, MP (DUP-North Antrim), Jonathan Reynolds, MP (Labour (Co-op)-Stalybridge and Hyde), Jane Stevenson, MP (Conservative-Wolverhampton North East), and The Rt Hon. Nick Thomas-Symonds, MP (Labour-Torfaen).

Additionally, the delegation participated a meeting about foreign and domestic affairs at Number 10 with Professor John Bew, who serves as a Special Advisor to the Prime Minister, Beatrice Kilroy-Nolan, who is the Deputy National Security Advisor, Toby Parker, who is Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, Fiona McIlwham, who is Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, and Col. Jaimie Norman, who is Military Attaché to the Prime Minister.

On Thursday, the Congressional delegation was privileged to meet at Windsor Castle with The Rt Hon. The Lord Parker of Minsmere, GCVO, KCB (Crossbench), who is the Lord Chamberlain of the Household, the most senior official of His Majesty's Royal Household. Majority Leader Scalise and Rep. Beatty presented to the Lord Chamberlain an American Flag flown over the U.S. Capitol in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the coronation of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Throughout three days, nine panel sessions, three standalone speakers, and two breakout sessions which focused on several key areas, including:

Better Health Care and Pharmaceuticals at a Lower Cost – the panel discussed how the U.S. and UK governments can ensure better patient care and health care outcomes while maintaining or lowering costs. The panel also discussed how to continue advancement of the U.S. health care delivery system and that of the U.K.'s National Health Service (NHS).

Appearing on the panel were Rep. Bucshon, Rep. Sewell, Rep. John Joyce, Rep. Moore, and Jeanette Kusel, Director for Scientific Advice at the UK's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Chairman Camp served as the moderator.

The Future of U.S.-UK Defense Cooperation and NATO – the panel discussed the bilateral engagement of the U.S. and the UK in defense, including

in the Five Eyes intelligence alliance and the AUKUS trilateral security pact. The panel also discussed the importance of the NATO alliance in combatting Russian aggression and maintaining order in the world.

Participating in the panel were Rep. Case, Rep. Bost, Rep. Bacon, Rep. Moore, and Paul Wyatt, who is the Director General for Security Policy for the Ministry of Defence. Rep. Bucshon moderated the discussion.

Global Financial Services – which discussed the challenges and opportunities faced by the banking, insurance, and other financial services industries around the world. The panel also discussed the future of London as a top global financial center.

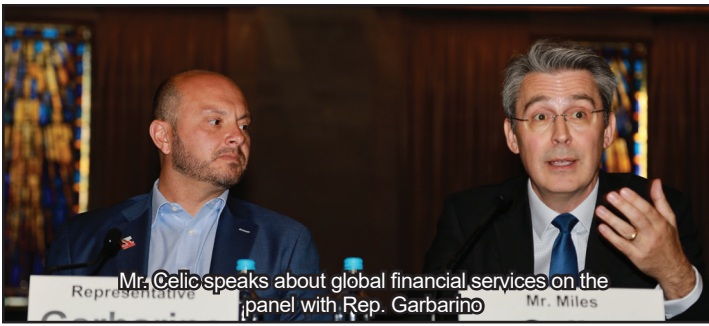
To kick off the session, The Rt Hon. John Glen, MP (Conservative-Salisbury) who serves as the Chief Secretary of the Treasury, delivered keynote remarks. He then sat on the panel with Rep. Huizenga, Rep. Beatty, Rep. Garbarino, and Mr. Miles Celic, who is the Chief Executive Officer of TheCityUK. Rep. Kildee moderated the financial services discussion.

The Future of Trade for the U.S. and the UK – was a panel discussion on the trade agendas of the U.S. and the UK and how they are advancing their nation's interests through engagement in pacts such as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). The discussion also focused on the bilateral partnership between our two nations, including the prospects of a free trade agreement, as well as an exploration of the unresolved issues holding up such a historic deal.

The trade panelists were Rep. Sewell, Rep. Kildee, Rep. Estes, Rep. Feenstra, Amanda Brooks, CBE, who is the Director General for Trade Negotiations for the Department for Business and Trade, and David Henig who is the Director, the UK Trade Policy Project, European Centre for International Political Economy (ECIPE). Duncan Edwards, the Chief Executive Officer of BritishAmerican Business, moderated the panel discussion.

Corporate Taxation – this panel discussion focused on the OECD's Pillar I and Pillar II proposals and corporate taxation in the United States and United Kingdom.





Mr. Celic speaks about global financial services on the panel with Rep. Garbarino



Mr. Henig makes a point during the trade panel with Rep. Feenstra and Ms. Brooks

Appearing on the panel were Rep. LaHood, Rep. Panetta, Rep. Estes, and Professor Michael P. Devereux, who is the Director of the Oxford University Centre for Business Taxation; Professor of Business Taxation at the Saïd Business School, University of Oxford; and a Professorial Fellow at Oriel College, Oxford. Chairman Camp moderated the tax discussion.

Meeting the China Challenge – this was a discussion on U.S. and UK efforts to confront the concerning economic actions of China while mitigating disruptions to supply chains and markets. The conversation spoke to the efforts of major corporations to potentially decouple or “de-risk” themselves from China, as well as the controversy of Chinese companies operating and investing in our two countries. Finally, the panel explored future cooperation in this effort between the U.S. and UK and spoke to the importance of bilateral and multilateral efforts to address the threats posed by China.

On the panel were Rep. LaHood, Rep. Krishnamoorthi, Rep. Johnson, Rep. Bice, Rep. Obernolte, and Jenny Bates who is the Director General for the Indo-Pacific at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. The moderator of the conversation was Rep. Bacon.

Energy Security and Climate Change – this was a panel discussion about all aspects of the energy sector, including fossil fuels, renewables, and nuclear. The panel also addressed the geopolitics of energy as countries search for friendlier and cost-effective places to source energy. Additionally, the panel discussed the world’s changing climate and what, if any, actions should be undertaken by the private and public sectors to combat it, along with the role technological innovation plays in that endeavor.

To begin the session, The Rt Hon. Grant Shapps, MP (Conservative-Welwyn Hatfield) who is the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero gave keynote remarks. He then joined the panel with Rep. Scalise, Rep. Pfluger and Rep. Carey, while Rep. Huiזeng served as the moderator.

Immigration, Border and Refugee Policy – this was a panel discussion about the immigration and refugee policies of the U.S. and UK as they confront dual migrant crises from the south – the U.S. southern border crisis and asylum seekers in “small boats” crossing the English Channel. The panel explored how to humanely alleviate these pressures and discussed what the two countries can

learn from each other in resolving these difficult situations. Additionally, the panel discussed how successful immigration policies can address workforce challenges and labor shortages.

Appearing on the panel were Rep. Dave Joyce, Rep. Panetta, Rep. Gonzales, and David Simmonds, CEP, MP (Conservative-Ruislip, Northwood & Pinner), who serves as the Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Migration. Rep. LaHood moderated this discussion.

Improving Bipartisanship in Congress – was a discussion among leading House Republicans and Democrats about how consensus can be reached during a contentious period in U.S. politics.

The panelists were Rep. Beatty, Rep. Dave Joyce, Rep. Case, and Rep. Johnson, while Chairman Camp served as the moderator.

In addition to the panels and breakout discussions, leading UK policymakers delivered remarks in a number of key issue areas, including:

“How Labour Sees the World” – which was a keynote address from The Rt Hon. Nick Thomas-Symonds, MP (Labour-Torfaen), who is the Shadow Secretary of State for International Trade, in which he discussed how the Official Opposition views the Special Relationship, as well as the global vision and trade priorities of the Labour Party.

“Out Front on AI: Where the UK Stands” – which was a keynote address by The Rt Hon. Michelle Donelan, MP (Conservative-Chippenham), who is the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, who shared the vision of her government as it strives to become a global leader in the development and regulation of the emerging field of Artificial Intelligence.

“The Future of the UK on the Global Stage” – which were remarks from The Lord Johnson of Lainston, CBE (Conservative), who is the Minister of State for Investment at the Department for Business and Trade, and who spoke about the role he believes the UK will play economically in global affairs over the next five to ten years, and what its engagement will look like with not only the U.S., but also the EU and the rest of the world.

There were also two breakout sessions which focused on what Congress can do to restore trust in government, and the future leadership role the U.S. will play around the globe.



Prof. Michael Devereux speaks on the corporate taxation panel with Rep. Estes



Rep. Bost speaks during the defense and NATO panel with his colleagues Rep. Case and Rep. Bacon



Rep. Dave Joyce and Rep. Beatty share a laugh during the bipartisanship panel



Rep. Gonzales makes a point during the immigration and refugee panel with Mr. Simmonds, MP and Rep. Panetta



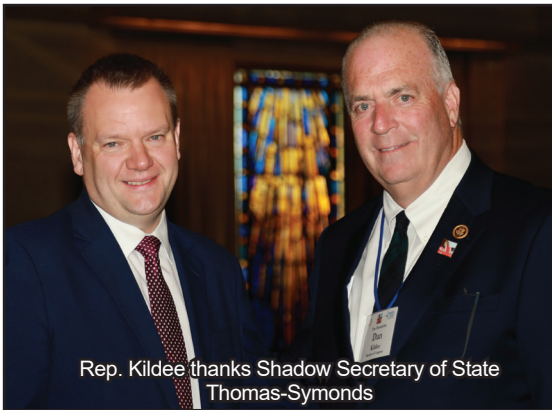
Leader Scalise and Rep. Beatty present the American flag to the Lord Chamberlain at Windsor Castle



Reps. LaHood and Krishnamoorthi enjoy the conversation during the China panel



Rep. Moore makes a point on the Defense and Representative NATO panel with Mr. Wyatt and Mr. Paul



Rep. Kildee thanks Shadow Secretary of State Thomas-Symonds



Chief Secretary Glen addresses the audience



Rep. Carey speaks about energy while Rep. Pfluger listens on



Leader Scalise speaks at Parliament with Rep. Sewell, The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP, The Rt Hon. Sir Conor Davis, MP, and Sir Christopher Chope, MP



Rep. Johnson and Rep. Case speak about bipartisanship



The Congressional delegation and the Members of Parliament after their bilateral meeting at the Palace of Westminster



Rep. Bucshon speaks on the health care panel



Lord Johnson addresses the audience