CGTN America Releases “Why Is Infrastructure a Political Issue?”

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WASHINGTON (PRWEB) August 16, 2021 -- Although the U.S. Senate has passed a bipartisan $1.2 trillion infrastructure spending bill, experts say the road ahead will be a bumpy one.

The two major political parties in the United States have a hard time even agreeing on the definition of infrastructure, says Elliott David Sclar, chairman of the Earth Institute of Columbia University.

“The Republicans say, ‘No, infrastructure is roads and maybe public transport and existing communication,’” Sclar tells CGTN. “The Biden administration says, ‘No, infrastructure is all the ways, both physically and socially, that connect people with work, that determine productivity and employment levels and growth of the economy.’ So that’s in essence the heart of what this debate is about.”

The infrastructure bill, which still needs to pass the House of Representatives, includes $40 billion for public transportation. Ram Pendiala, a professor at Arizona State University’s School of Sustainable Engineering, tells CGTN that improving public transportation services is not about upgrading a few buses or adding a few stations.

In a country where only seven major cities have subways, Pendiala says what is really needed is a qualitative change of the entire system.

The bill would spend $55 billion replacing the country’s lead pipes and funding other clean-water projects. Sam Sandoval, an associate professor at UC Davis, said aging equipment and water pollution are the main problems facing the water supply system.


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CGTN America: “Qixi Love Story: Sweet Moments of Xi Jinping and His Wife Peng Liyuan”

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CGTN America marked the occasion by taking a rare look at the 34-year marriage of President Xi Jinping and Peng Liyuan.

Their wedding in September 1987 was a modest affair – a simple dinner with a few friends and colleagues. Their separate careers often kept them apart for periods of time. “I call my wife by phone every day, although we don't have much time to be together,” Xi said in an interview after 10 years of marriage.

Peng is a folk singer well known for her regular appearances on China’s most-popular television program, the annual Spring Festival Gala. On those nights, Xi would make dumplings and wait for his wife to come home for the traditional reunion dinner.

Peng calls Xi a great companion and a “responsible husband.” She sewed a quilt for him during one cold winter when he was working in Fujian Province.

When President Xi gave his 2021 New Year address, viewers could see 21 photos in the bookcase behind him, including one of Xi and Peng at the Old Summer Palace in Beijing and another photo of Peng in her youth.

Xi says he and his wife work together even when they are apart.

"Don't cut off true love because of a great distance, never forget it in your busy daily life, don't ignore it during ceaseless work," he said.
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