

Though in reviewing the incidents of my administration I am unconscious of intentional error, I am nevertheless too sensible of my defects not to think it probable that I may have committed many errors. Whatever they may be, I fervently beseech the Almighty to avert or mitigate the evils to which they may tend. I shall also carry with me the hope that my country will never cease to view them with indulgence and that, after forty-five years of my life dedicated to its service with an upright zeal, the faults of incompetent abilities will be consigned to oblivion, as myself must soon be to the mansions of rest.

Relying on its kindness in this as in other things, and actuated by that fervent love towards it which is so natural to a man who views in it the native soil of himself and his progenitors for several generations, I anticipate with pleasing expectation that retreat, in which I promise myself to realize without alloy the sweet enjoyment of partaking in the midst of my fellow citizens the benign influence of good laws under a free government—the ever favorite object of my heart, and the happy reward, as I trust, of our mutual cares, labors and dangers.

GEO. WASHINGTON.

UNITED STATES, 19th September 1796.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for debate only, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, until 5:30 p.m.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin, I want to note that this week marks the 500th day of captivity for those hostages still imprisoned by Hamas—500 days, well more than a year deprived of family, home, loved ones, freedom.

It is imperative that the rest of the hostages be returned as soon as possible and that the remains of those killed be returned with dignity so that their families may have closure, and I am grateful that the Trump administration is making this a priority.

My prayers today are with all those still suffering in captivity and with their families.

Mr. President, it only took 4 years—just 4 years for the Democrat leader to

become concerned about inflation. Shocking.

Last week, the Democratic leader came down to the floor multiple times to complain about January's inflation numbers—inflation numbers that he blamed on—get this—President Trump. That is right. I guess it didn't occur to the Democratic leader that it was actually President Biden who was President for most of January—up until January 20—and, by the way, for the past 4 years. So I guess, what are you going to do? You have to have something to talk about.

But it was fascinating to hear the leader complain about inflation being at 3 percent. Inflation was over 3 percent more than 2 straight years during the Biden administration. I might add, mostly way over 3 percent—like 7, 8, 9 percent. I am trying and failing to remember the Democratic leader even expressing half this outrage.

By the end of the Biden administration, a typical family had to pay—get this—\$13,000 more per year to maintain the same standard of living that they had enjoyed when President Biden took office—\$13,000 more per year as a result of Biden inflation. I would be very surprised if the Democratic leader came to the floor to highlight that fact even once. I think we all know the answer to that.

But I am forgetting the rules are different for Democrats. If you are a Democrat, it is perfectly fine and not at all hypocritical to plan to abolish the filibuster should you gain a majority in the Senate but to use it regularly when you do not.

It is perfectly fine and not at all hypocritical to convey outrage about a Republican President daring to use executive power, even if the prior Democrat administration used it profusely.

Apparently, it is perfectly fine and not at all hypocritical to condemn a Republican President for a 3-percent inflation number, even if he wasn't actually President over most of the month in question, the month of January, while ignoring the raging inflation crisis that characterized a large chunk of the prior administration.

One rule for me, another for thee. That, apparently, is the Democratic motto.

Mr. President, I guess I should have some sympathy. Recent headlines have described Democrats as “dejected” and in “disarray,” and I guess they have to make some kind of messaging attempt, however weak and ill-founded. But I have to say, the hypocrisy is really something to behold.

NOMINATION OF HOWARD LUTNICK

Mr. THUNE. Later today, the Senate will vote on the nomination of Howard Lutnick, President Trump's nominee to be Secretary of Commerce.

The Secretary of Commerce has an important job. He or she is charged with promoting American industry at home and abroad and keeping our econ-

omy competitive, both now and into the future. I am glad President Trump has chosen an outcome-driven leader like Howard Lutnick for such an important post.

Mr. Lutnick is a successful businessman who has spent four decades building up Cantor Fitzgerald, the firm that hired him after college. He is an inventor whose name appears on over 800 patents and patent applications around the world.

He is someone who is not only passionate about business but who cares deeply about people. Howard Lutnick's greatest business achievement is not building his own success or building up a company; it is rebuilding Cantor Fitzgerald over the last 24 years because Cantor Fitzgerald occupied the 101st through 105th floors of the World Trade Center North Tower.

On September 11, 2001, every single employee who was in the office died—658 people, including Howard's brother. It was unclear whether the firm could go on after losing two-thirds of its New York staff. So Howard Lutnick offered the surviving employees a choice. They could either go to 20 funerals a day for the next month or they could work harder than ever to rebuild a company to take care of the families of those who had died. They agreed to donate a quarter of their salaries to the 658 families of their colleagues with no limit and no expectation they would ever be paid back. Over the next 5 years, the firm and its employees gave those families \$180 million.

In 2008, Howard Lutnick made sure each employee got back double what they had given. To this day, each September 11 is Charity Day at Cantor Fitzgerald, meaning every dollar of revenue the firm makes that day is donated in memory of those that they lost on September 11, 2001.

Mr. President, Howard Lutnick's story is inspiring. It is a lesson in resilience and determination and the American spirit. And it demonstrates the type of person Howard Lutnick is and the type of public servant that he will be. I know Mr. Lutnick is looking forward to taking on the challenges and seizing the opportunities the next few years will bring. As he said in his hearing, he believes “America is in a place to teach the world and to show the world what leadership is like, what a great economy is like, what taking care of . . . Americans is like.”

I think we can all agree that we have the capacity to do these things. We can continue to lead the world in innovation. We can continue to unlock new economic possibilities and new opportunities. And we can make life better for the American people.

I am pleased that Mr. Lutnick will be bringing a get-it-done approach to the Department of Commerce.

As a member of the Senate Commerce Committee who has worked on technology issues for many years, I am particularly pleased that Mr. Lutnick