

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 833.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Walter Clayton, of New York, to be Director of National Intelligence.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 833, Walter Clayton, of New York, to be Director of National Intelligence.

John Thune, Tom Cotton, Jon Husted, Alan Armstrong, Jim Banks, Bernie Moreno, Chuck Grassley, John Barasso, Marsha Blackburn, Joni Ernst, John R. Curtis, Roger F. Wicker, Pete Ricketts, Katie Boyd Britt, Bill Hagerty, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Mike Crapo.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the Senate is in the middle of a busy work period, and we have a lot to accomplish in the coming weeks and months. We have some great opportunities for bipartisan collaboration: market structure legislation; the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia Act; the National Defense Authorization Act; PISA.

But at the top of the list right now is funding the government. If there is any responsibility we have as Members of Congress, it is that. And our country cannot afford another shutdown like the two shutdowns we have experienced over the course of this fiscal year. Shutdowns take a toll on our economy, on our national security. They create havoc at airports. And, of course, they take an incredible toll on hard-working Americans inside and outside the government whose paychecks depend on the government being open.

I think a lot of Americans remember pretty clearly what things looked like during the Democrats' two record-breaking shutdowns this past year: government workers lining up at food banks, charging essentials on credit cards, and taking up any work they could find in hopes of being able to make ends meet; government services reduced; national security Agencies strained.

I don't think any American who traveled will forget the effect those two shutdowns had on air travel: hourslong TSA lines snaking around airport concourses and out airport doors; canceled and delayed flights; a nationwide reduction in air traffic, when our air traffic control system could no longer safely maintain regular flight schedules.

The list goes on.

We cannot—cannot—have this again, and that is why I have asked Appropriations Chair COLLINS to draft a bipartisan and clean continuing resolution to fund the government until after the November election. I intend for the Senate to vote on that before we head to our States to work during August.

The Senate Appropriations Committee is hard at work reviewing anomalies from OMB to ensure we have a bipartisan product ready to move quickly. No one is served by our waiting until the last minute to take this up.

And after all that our country has been through with the past two shutdowns, the American people deserve to have confidence that the government will be open and running, not to mention the fact that government employees—like our own staffers and the Capitol Police officers standing guard around this building—deserve to know that their paychecks will be coming.

It was not a good year on the government funding front, with two record-breaking government shutdowns, but we have an opportunity now to chart a new path.

I am encouraged that, so far, my Democrat colleagues have signaled that they do not want to force another government shutdown, and I appreciate Chair COLLINS' work to engage with Democrats and produce a bipartisan continuing resolution.

No one—no one—is served by a shutdown, not either political party, and most of all not the people that we represent.

So I look forward to bringing up a bipartisan CR in the coming days, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation and give the American people the certainty that they deserve.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, Donald Trump's cavalier disregard for the lives of our servicemembers is beneath contempt and beyond despicable.

In a Truth Social post, yesterday, Trump seemed to brag that 18 servicemembers had been killed in his disas-

trous Iran war compared to the tens of thousands who died in Vietnam.

Donald, stop treating our servicemembers' lives like they are points on a scoreboard in your twisted game.

Asked about his handling of the Iran war, yesterday, Trump said:

I think people are very impressed.

Very impressed? What kind of bubble does he live in?

Every survey shows how much the American people are against this war. Americans are not impressed that Trump has botched this war from the start. Americans are not impressed when they see headlines like the one behind me right here—that the price of gasoline is back over \$4 a gallon because of Trump's war. And Americans are certainly not impressed that 18 Americans have been killed and hundreds more wounded and that Trump has tried to cover it up.

Donald Trump may believe that, if he conceals the casualties, Americans will forget the war. But our servicemembers are not numbers to bury. They are human beings with families who have lives. They are the sons and daughters, husbands and wives, and mothers and fathers who are sent into harm's way without a strategy for bringing them home—and bring them home we must.

This week, Senate Democrats will force another vote on our War Powers Resolution to end this unauthorized war and get our troops out of harm's way. Every Senator will have to make a choice. You cannot claim to support the troops while leaving them trapped in a war with no mission and no end. You cannot call it a victory while the battlefield keeps expanding. And you cannot hide the wounded and call it peace.

AIR FORCE ONE

Now, Mr. President, on Air Force One, Donald Trump's corruption truly knows no limits. Apparently, it wasn't enough for Trump to charge the American people for his golden ballroom on the ground. Now he wants the taxpayers to fund his palace in the sky as well. Trump's \$400 million foreign jet—the biggest gift a President has received from a foreign government ever—is anything but free. Taxpayers will have to pay hundreds of millions of dollars to outfit Trump's luxury jet with the security upgrades it needs to serve as Air Force One.

I am advancing the Presidential Air-lift Security Act for immediate passage to ensure that Americans don't have to foot the bill to "max out" Trump's luxury jet when he already has access to a perfectly fine Air Force One. There is no way we are letting Trump charge Americans so he can fly in style while they are struggling to make ends meet.

I introduced this legislation last year, but every single Republican Senator voted against the bill. Senate Republicans cleared the way for Trump's Air Force One spending spree. I urge my colleagues across the aisle not to

repeat the same mistake. Trump always finds a way to saddle the American people with the cost of his corruption. We have an opportunity to stop it. Will our Republican colleagues join us to make that happen?

Democrats will continue to expose how the Trump administration's corruption is driving up Americans' costs every chance we get—the slush fund, an exemption from taxes, what he did on his own social media in charging people for it, and now this Air Force One corruption. Every day—just about every day—there is a new story about how Trump's corruption is rampant and raises the costs of the American people.

ELECTION PROTECTION TASK FORCE

Mr. President, on the Election Protection Task Force, Donald Trump knows he can't defend Republicans' disastrous record. So he is attacking the midterm elections that could hold him accountable. Instead of trying to earn Americans' votes, Trump is trying to discount them.

That is not going to happen, Donald. Today, Senate Democrats' Election Protection Task Force will gather for a second time to war-game responses and to plan how we can counter Trump's effort to subvert our elections. We are going to red-team a number of different instances that Trump might try to subvert our election and what we will do to counter them. We are fighting to protect the right of every eligible American voter to cast a ballot and to have it counted without interference, intimidation, or obstruction.

Our task force is preparing, over and over again, to meet the election threats we know are coming. We are bringing together top experts to identify threats to the election, to test responses, and to strengthen our defenses because we are defending the American people's right to vote and have a free and fair election. We are preparing our responses to what they might do now so that voters can have confidence later.

Trump is doing everything he can to undermine confidence in our elections because he knows just how bad of a bind he is in. The Trump administration has made life harder and more expensive for the American people. Trump knows Americans won't ignore the higher costs, the rampant corruption, and the widespread chaos he has unleashed on our country, which is why he is trying to ignore their votes altogether. But this country and this election belong to the American people, not to Trump. Democrats are going to make sure it stays that way.

NOMINATION OF CHARLTON ALLEN

Finally, Mr. President, on the Charlton Allen nomination, you know, it is no secret that the Trump administration is chock-full of people who have a known history of racism, anti-Semitism, and other forms of prejudice; and Trump's nominee for general counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, Charlton Allen, is no exception to this.

Back in 1996, Allen published a front-page article in his student newspaper that included a cartoon depicting a Jewish candidate for student president as the devil. Allen's article explicitly highlighted the candidate's Jewish identity and parroted numerous anti-Semitic tropes. Allen also reportedly displayed homophobic signs around campus and even drew comparisons between homosexuality and bestiality. He also wrote other articles that were racist and Islamophobic.

A bigot like Allen doesn't belong on the board of a student newspaper, let alone in a Presidential administration. Every Senate Republican ought to be against this guy.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Martin nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WORKING FAMILIES TAX CUT ACT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, the American people deserve to have more money in their own pockets. The Working Families Tax Cut law made that happen. Republicans stopped the largest single tax increase in American history. That is what the Democrats wanted.

Americans already filed their taxes this year, and working families are keeping more of what they earned, and the data proves it.

More than 7½ million Americans benefited from the no-tax-on-tips policy that we put into place right here on this Senate floor. So today, there are waiters, barbers, bartenders, tour guides—all were able to claim deductions—and it averaged over \$7,100 in deductions—because of no tax on tips. More than 29 million Americans benefited from no tax on overtime. These are firefighters, police officers, and nurses. They are linemen and coal miners in Wyoming. They claimed an average deduction of over \$3,000—all as a result of the law the Republicans have passed. Money that once went to bureaucrats in Washington, DC, now stays in the pockets of hard-working Americans, and that is where it belongs.

Had Democrats gotten their way, taxes would have gone up by a lot. Every Democrat in this Chamber voted to continue taxing tip income, overtime income. They just wanted to get a hand on people's money. Every Democrat voted to raise taxes by \$4 trillion. Well, because Republicans were in the majority in the Senate and in the

House, we were able to stop this Democrat price increase and tax increase.

Now what we see is that extremist Democrats in Governor mansions across the country and State legislatures are trying to undermine the Working Families Tax Cut law, and they are doing it in city halls and in State capitals.

In Washington, DC—right here—the city council tried to force hard-working Americans to pay taxes to the city. They can't force them to pay it to the Federal Government; hey, the city wants the money on tips and on overtime. The city council of Washington, DC, refused to allow the hard-working waiters, bartenders, police officers, and firefighters to keep that hard-earned money. They didn't have to pay it on Federal taxes, but local taxes in DC—the DC city council said: Give it to us. This is the city that is soon going to get a socialist mayor, just like they have in New York City right now.

Right now, in 21 different States, we have far-left Governors refusing to allow the tax cuts that we passed to be passed down to the State level. So Democrats in California, in New York, in Minnesota, Illinois, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Virginia continue to take away people's tip money and overtime money so they can spend it locally. That is the States and the cities, not the people, the individuals.

So just like Democrats here in Congress, the leaders in Democrat States around the country want to raise taxes, not cut them. They believe they can spend your money better than you can. They believe they make better decisions than you do. They decide, and you end up as a loser if you are living in one of those liberal States.

Well, we know why Democrats refuse to loosen the grip on your tax dollars. Democrats want to take more money out of your pocket to give free healthcare to illegal immigrants. And that is what we see in so many of these States with sanctuary cities, sanctuary States—free healthcare. And it is not free. People pay for it. It is taxpayers. It is people going to work every day and having their tax dollars taken to pay for healthcare for illegal immigrants. That seems to be part of the manifesto that the extremists in the Democrat Party are trying to slam down the throats of American taxpayers.

We know these extremists are winning Democrat primaries all across the country. Their manifesto includes mass amnesty, open borders, and elimination of Immigration and Customs Enforcement in the country. That is what they are demanding, and it is not for the benefit of the American people. That is the agenda of the radical left.

In far-left States, from California to Minnesota, we have seen their policies in action. Working families are overtaxed, and fraud is out of control.

Now Democrats are going to make life less affordable. That is what we see. That is their model. Take it to the