

for delay's sake. I would urge our Democratic friends to reconsider what they are doing.

Mr. Rosenstein is a highly qualified nominee. He is well respected across the political spectrum and within the legal and law enforcement communities. He should be confirmed without further delay.

REMEMBERING KATE O'BEIRNE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter, over the weekend, we lost one of conservatism's most insightful journalists with the passing of Kate O'Beirne.

Kate was long a leading voice for conservative principles, and she served as mentor to so many all along the way. In a town full of class presidents and big shots, Kate never hesitated to help someone who was new to Washington or down on his luck.

She was fiercely devoted to her country, to her faith, and to her family, including her husband, Jim, her two sons Phil and John, her sisters, and her grandchildren. Beyond her immediate family, Kate helped to foster a family at National Review with her wit, warmth, and compassion.

As her family, friends, and many others across the Nation mourn her loss today, we wish them comfort in this trying time.

As anyone who knew Kate can attest, her impact will not soon be forgotten.

REMEMBERING MATTHEW MCCLANAHAN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on one final matter, I would like to offer the Senate's condolences to a family in the Capitol community who suffered a great loss during the recent State work period.

Last week, Matthew McClanahan, a well-respected member of the Capitol community, passed away after a tragic accident near the Capitol Grounds. Matt worked as a pipefitter for the Architect of the Capitol and earned a reputation as a hard worker who took pride in his work here at the Capitol. As those who were closest to him recall, Matt was "funny, sweet, and kind" and "always the first to show up when someone needed a helping hand."

His sudden passing is felt by so many—colleagues, friends, family, and most especially by his wife, Lauren, and two young children, Evie and Matthew.

We know that no words can convey the heartbreaking loss they feel, but on behalf of the Senate and the Capitol community as a whole, I want to send our deepest condolences to them at this immensely difficult time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING MATTHEW MCCLANAHAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, I echo the majority leader's remarks on the tragic death of Matthew McClanahan last Tuesday. We all know the Architect of the Capitol employs plumbers, landscapers, painters, electricians, custodians, and mechanics. They make their careers by ensuring that our buildings and grounds are well maintained, safe, and beautiful. The stunning tragedy of last week has shaken this entire staff to its core.

Matthew McClanahan died way too young. That he died at work in repairing the Capitol's sprinkler system has hit our entire community very hard.

To those who worked so hard to save him, you have our gratitude and admiration.

To those who feel his absence so keenly in their daily lives, you have our sympathy and our support.

May you remember the words of Scripture fittingly from Matthew: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

Our prayers go out to his family—his wife, Lauren; his 7-year-old daughter, Evie; his young son, Matthew; and to his parents, brothers, and sisters-in-law, and grandparents.

His funeral was yesterday, and I understand it was completely packed, with some mourners outside and unable to get in. He was well loved. He will be well remembered.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING BILL

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I join the majority leader in welcoming everybody back to the Senate after the 2-week recess. We have a lot of business to attend to this week. Most importantly, we have to pass a spending bill to keep the government open.

So far, the discussions between our two sides have been constructive and are progressing nicely. Without interference, I believe our two parties can come together on an agreement by the end of the week. The four-corner negotiations—that is Leader McCONNELL, Speaker RYAN, Leader PELOSI, and I—have been going very well, and a monkey wrench was thrown into them.

I will caution: If the administration insists on poison pill riders or extraneous funding requests, then our talks could get sidetracked, particularly if the administration demands funding for a border wall.

Democrats have been long clear that the border wall is a nonstarter. More than a month ago, here on the floor,

from this desk, I warned against including funding for the border wall in any must-pass government spending bill. If the administration insists on funding for a wall in this bill, it will endanger the prospects of a bill's passing and raise the prospects of a government shutdown because a border wall, we believe, is a pointless waste of taxpayer money for several reasons.

First, President Trump promised that Mexico would pay for the wall, not American taxpayers. The idea that President Trump is fulfilling a campaign promise when he says that America will pay for the wall now and Mexico will pay it back later is untrue. He will only fulfill his campaign promise if he gets Mexico to pay for the wall now. That is No. 1.

Second, the Trump administration has not shown us any specific plans about how and where the wall will be built. How high will it be? How much will it cost? Where along the Rio Grande River will it be built? The President's own Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Zinke, said:

The border is complicated, as far as building a physical wall . . . the Rio Grande, what side of the river are you going to put the wall? We're not going to put it on our side and cede the river to Mexico. And we're probably not going to put it in the middle of the river.

Zinke said it well: How, where, when, and how many dollars is this wall going to cost? Before rushing into it, we ought to see some real plans, not just talk.

Third, the cost of the wall is staggering. Some estimates peg it as high as \$50 billion. That money could be spent a lot better elsewhere on things like infrastructure and education. For example, with \$50 billion, we could connect more than 98 percent of Americans to high-speed internet, more than double the Federal funding for roads and bridges across our country, and update every VA building listed in the VA's long-range strategic capital plan. The money would be better spent elsewhere.

Fourth, there are much better ways to protect our borders—with drones, fences, and other more cost-effective measures. The President said the wall is needed to stop the flow of drugs, but drugs come into our country in several ways, including by water, through tunnels, and snuck in by cars and trucks. We have all seen the pictures on TV where they hide them in the carburetor of the car, and no one finds them.

A huge, expensive wall will still have to have border crossings for vehicles. A huge, expensive wall could still have tunnels dug beneath it. In reality, a combination of drones and fencing and other more sophisticated means would be a much more effective way to secure the border.

Fifth, in order to build the wall, the President—the Federal Government—would need to take private land, using eminent domain from thousands of law-abiding Americans. Much of the

land on the border is privately owned. It is not owned by the Federal Government. Eminent domain? A lot of people on that side of the aisle don't like it, and we all know it would take a very long time to get it done.

For those reasons, it is not just Democrats who oppose the wall, many Republicans oppose the wall. According to a Wall Street Journal survey: "Not a single member of Congress who represents the territory on the southwest border said they support President Trump's request for \$1.4 billion to begin construction of his promised wall." That includes my friends Senators CORNYN, CRUZ, McCAIN, and FLAKE.

For the very same reasons, the American people don't support the idea of a border wall by almost a 2-to-1 margin. A recent Quinnipiac poll found that 64 percent of Americans oppose a wall on the border with Mexico, versus only 33 percent who favor it, and that poll didn't even include the fact that Mexico would not be paying for it under the President's plan.

Now, I say to my colleagues and to President Trump, we Democrats don't mind having a debate on the wall in regular order. We don't think it would pass, given the amount of opposition on both sides, but certainly a proposal with as many flaws as this one shouldn't be the thing the administration uses to hold the government hostage and certainly shouldn't be pushed through without debate, without regular order, without answers to these questions.

THE PRESIDENT'S FIRST ONE HUNDRED DAYS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, let's talk a little bit about the President's first 100 days. We are approaching the 100-day mark of the Trump Presidency. It is an appropriate time to take stock of what this President has accomplished so far. Unfortunately, it is not much.

In the first 100 days, so many of the promises the President made to working families during the campaign have either been broken outright or remain unfulfilled.

The President ran as a populist. I have said this to him. The President ran as a populist against both the Democratic and the Republican establishments, promising to stick up for the American worker. He talked like a different kind of Republican who might be willing to work with Democrats, particularly on issues like trade or infrastructure. Instead, the President has spent the first 100 days governing from the far right on behalf of the powerful and the special interests he once campaigned against, breaking his promise to be a President for the American worker—the forgotten men and women, as he called them. It sure didn't take long for the President to forget them too.

The President has broken promises or has yet to fulfill them in areas that

matter to so many of his voters and to so many Americans, whether they voted for him or not. He promised he would drain the swamp, right? He talked about it over and over again. He promised he would drain the swamp, but instead he has filled his Cabinet with billionaires and bankers. And listen to this: He has given out secret waivers that allow lobbyists to work in his administration on the very issues they previously lobbied on. That is not draining the swamp. That is filling it up to the brim, going far beyond what others have done.

He said he would deliver better healthcare that would cost less and provide more benefits. At one point, he said we are going to give healthcare to everybody, but his bill, TrumpCare, does the exact opposite, providing fewer benefits at higher costs, all to finance a massive tax break for the wealthy.

He promised a \$1 trillion infrastructure bill. We Democrats sent him our proposal—a \$1 trillion infrastructure bill, taking the number he talked about in the campaign—over a month ago. We haven't seen any proposal or gotten any response from the President.

The President promised he would be tough on trade, outsourcing, and jobs. He promised he would label China a currency manipulator and fight back against their rapacious trade policies which robbed America of millions of jobs and cost trillions of dollars of our wealth. He hasn't done that either.

The 2018 budget he proposed is a dagger to the heart of the middle class, cutting some of the programs that matter to the middle class most, including transportation, education, and scientific research.

So as we head into the 100-day mark, Democrats are going to hold the President accountable for the promises he made to working-class voters. We obviously disagreed with a lot of what he said in the campaign, but he made a number of promises to working-class voters that we could have helped him to accomplish. Unfortunately, he has abandoned those promises in favor of a hard-right, special interest agenda.

We can work together, but only if President Trump and Republicans actually seek Democratic input and are willing to compromise. Right now it seems the President's idea of compromise is never talk to Democrats, put forward his own Republican proposal, and pressure us to support it; never talk to Democrats, that is, about the issues he is moving forward. I have talked to him, but it is never on the issues that are before us. That is not the way our politics have ever worked. Unless the President's approach changes, the next 100 days will be just like the first: a whole lot of talk and no progress, a series of broken or unfulfilled promises to the working families of America.

NOMINATION OF ROD ROSENSTEIN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, one final issue, the nomination of Rod Rosenstein to be Deputy Attorney General, which we will vote to proceed on later tonight.

I sat down with Mr. Rosenstein a few weeks ago and spent time asking him about his career, his views on the Department of Justice, and protecting the integrity of the Department. I came away with the impression that he is someone who is independent, who would stand up for the law, regardless of which party controlled the White House, and his career backs that up.

With respect to the executive branch investigation into ties between the Trump campaign and Russia, Mr. Rosenstein committed to me he would appoint a special counsel to conduct that investigation if one is required. He has developed a reputation for integrity. He has promised to give this issue careful consideration. I believe, if he studies the Department regulations, he will come to the same conclusion many of us have; that a special counsel is merited.

For those reasons, I will be voting for cloture this evening and voting for his confirmation.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session for consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Sonny Perdue, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Agriculture.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 5:30 p.m. will be equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Utah.

BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, last week, I had the opportunity to return home to visit the recently declared Bears Ears National Monument. This Federal designation encompasses roughly 1.35 million acres in Utah, and it is located in one of our country's most remote communities—Juan County.

For decades, this quiet county remained largely untouched by the tensions of modern life and the taint of