

qualified pick to chair the FDIC Board of Directors.

This week, we have also seen an impressive proposal to reform the way Congress handles workplace claims, especially claims of harassment. The Democratic leader and I strongly support this proposal, as do our colleagues Senator BLUNT and Senator KLOBUCHAR.

All this comes in addition to two major Senate-passed bills that passed the House this week and are now heading to the President's desk to become law: the legislation championed by our colleague Senator JOHNSON, which will give terminally ill patients the right to try experimental drugs that are still making their way through the full FDA approval process, and the mainstreaming of Dodd-Frank regulations for small lenders and community banks, thanks to the leadership of Senator CRAPO. This legislation will help secure access to credit for middle-class families and small businesses, and the President will sign it just a few hours from now.

There is also important activity underway at the committee level. Chairman BARRASSO is leading the Environment and Public Works Committee through consideration of measures to improve and expand America's waterways infrastructure. Chairman SHELBY and the Appropriations Committee today have already begun their work on the annual funding bills. Following the committee's robust discussions, I look forward to bringing the appropriations bills they craft to the Senate floor. Earlier this week, the Armed Services Committee began considering this year's Defense authorization bill. They have a solid foundation on which to build, thanks to the historic agreement reached earlier this year that delivered the highest year-on-year increase in funding for our Armed Forces in 15 years.

One bill after another, one confirmation after another, the Senate continues to produce major accomplishments that will directly improve the lives of the American people.

TAX REFORM

Mr. President, on that subject, yesterday brought yet another piece of exciting news for American workers and middle-class families. The U.S. manufacturer United Technologies announced new plans to invest \$15 billion right here in America and hire 35,000 American workers in the next several years.

This Fortune 100 company makes a wide variety of engineered products, from jet engines to elevators. Now, because of this favorable climate for business growth, investment, and job creation, they are putting billions into research and development and capital investment and creating tens of thousands of new job openings.

To fill some of these job openings, the company is partnering with community colleges, high schools, and other workforce training programs.

This all comes on the heels of the company's other recent investments, like the new 93,000-square-foot facility in Lansing, MI, and a new 80,000-square-foot facility in Foley, AL.

What is making all this possible? According to United Technologies' announcement, "The competitive tax system resulting from U.S. tax reform is encouraging global companies, such as United Technologies, to make long-term investments in innovation in America."

This announcement is exactly the kind of headline you would expect to see in an America that is growing again. It is exactly what you would expect to happen as Republican policies continue to get Washington, DC, out of the way of American workers and job creators, and let them do what they do best—build an economy that is the envy of the rest of the world.

Yesterday's announcement was no isolated incident. We are hearing announcements like this from job creators, large and small, from national employers to Main Street businesses in my State of Kentucky and all across the country.

Back in 2013, under the Democrats' policy agenda, more than two-thirds of U.S. manufacturers reported that a hostile business climate due to taxes and regulation was a primary obstacle in their way. That was in 2013.

Today, just 16 months into this unified Republican government, fewer than one in five say that. This comeback for American manufacturing means new job openings for American workers, more prosperity for our small towns and cities, and higher take-home pay for middle-class American families.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, this morning, I would like to address four issues at varying lengths: recent news on the North Korea summit, the Russia probe, the proposed rescission of Ebola funding, and a word about the upcoming Memorial Day holiday.

NORTH KOREA

First, Madam President, on the very recent news that President Trump has canceled the planned summit with Kim Jong Un of North Korea, the fear many of us had was that the summit between President Trump and Kim Jong Un would be a great show that produced nothing enduring. If a summit is to be reconstituted, the United States must show strength and achieve a concrete, verifiable, enduring elimination of Kim Jong Un's nuclear capabilities.

RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

Second, Madam President, on the Russia probe, today on Capitol Hill, Department of Justice, FBI, and intelligence community officials are scheduled to brief the Members of Congress on a few issues related to Special Counsel Mueller's investigation into Putin's meddling in the 2016 election.

There will be two briefings—one for a House Republican partisan who has relentlessly harassed the Justice Department to reveal sources and methods to him for the sole purpose of interfering with and denigrating the special counsel's investigation. After several requests, the Department of Justice will also brief the bipartisan Gang of 8 on the same information separately later in the day.

While we believe no briefing should occur, it is a good thing that the Gang of 8 will be briefed. The overwhelming fact remains that a separate meeting with a known partisan whose only intent is to undermine the Mueller investigation makes no sense and should be called off. What is the point of a separate briefing if not to cause partisan trouble and create a he said, she said scenario? It is so damaging to the way our officials in the Justice Department have always worked.

Representative NUNES, the architect of this sham briefing, no longer deserves the benefit of the doubt. He lost all claims to objectivity long ago with his ridiculous, late-night charade at the White House and his conduct on the House Intelligence Committee, culminating in a document of innuendo and whitewashing that has recently come to be called the Nunes memo.

The reason Leader PELOSI and I requested a Gang of 8 briefing was because that is the process for Congress to review sensitive and potentially classified information—it has been the process for decades—the reason being, the Gang of 8 is already read into sensitive national security information and because the Gang of 8 is bipartisan. When one party—Representative NUNES, who so clearly wants to distort national security information for partisan purposes—asks for a solitary briefing, there shouldn't be a briefing at all.

Our preference would still be for the Justice Department to cancel the briefing today, but if it goes forward, there should be one briefing and one briefing only: bipartisan, Gang of 8.

It is also wholly inappropriate that General Kelly is at all involved in these briefings. The White House should never be allowed to interfere in an ongoing DOJ investigation, but it is absolutely beyond the pale that they are interfering in an investigation involving the President and his campaign. The person and people being investigated are being briefed on their investigation before it concludes. That doesn't happen in our justice system no matter who you are. Americans will rightly wonder why General Kelly was present. To erase their doubts, he should skip the meeting.

Alongside all the action on Capitol Hill today, President Trump continues to fabricate a false narrative about deep-state bias against his Presidency. This is what a child does. You look at them like they are doing something wrong, and they blame something else. They try to divert your attention. That is how the President is acting.

Yesterday, he tweeted: "Look at how things have turned around on the Criminal Deep State." Well, Mr. President, I direct you to your own Secretary of State. You just appointed him, promoted him. Here is what he said yesterday:

I don't believe there's a deep state at the State Department. . . . The employees . . . at the CIA nearly uniformly were aimed at achieving . . . America's objectives.

That is the President's own Secretary of State, his own former CIA Director, dispensing with this fantastical notion of a deep state.

The President says there were spies in his campaign. It is all in the same vein of his other conspiracy theories. Remember, President Trump said that Obama tapped his phones. That was false. He said before that Russia did not interfere in our elections. That was false. Why should we think the claim that there were spies in his campaign is any different? He makes it up as he goes along to divert attention from the real issue: that Russia tried to influence our election; did influence our election; and there may, may, may—we don't know for sure, but we have to find out—have been collusion with members of President Trump's campaign and even President Trump in that regard. That is serious stuff. We have already had 13 indictments. It is beyond any doubt that Russia did try to influence our election. We need to find out who participated. That is imperative to the future of this country.

The President, acting like he has something to hide, keeps trying to subvert the investigation by simply inventing enemies out of shadows and sowing division in our country. If it were anyone else, we would call it paranoia.

Meanwhile, the President continues to risk our national security by using an unsecured cell phone for some of his communications. When the Washington Post asked a national security expert the odds of a foreign adversary having gained access to the President's unsecured cell phone, the expert responded: "100 percent, the question is how many foreign powers."

So while President Trump points the finger of blame in every direction and was relentless that Hillary Clinton broke security protocols, he is guilty of creating a real national security threat every time he picks up his cell phone to call Sean Hannity or Rudy Giuliani. It is amazing. It is utterly amazing, the times we are living in, and it amazes me so that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle still remain silent—still remain silent. Who would have thought.

EBOLA FUNDING

Madam President, in early May, President Trump proposed rescinding \$250 million meant to combat the Ebola virus and other infectious diseases. Not only are these rescissions a slap in the face of the bipartisan budget process, but they are dangerous to our national health and security.

Just last week, a new case of the Ebola virus was confirmed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and at least two dozen people have already died in this most recent outbreak.

Let's not forget how vociferously our friends on the other side of the aisle criticized President Obama on how he handled the Ebola outbreak in 2014. Once again, Donald Trump totally contradicts what he said in the past with what he is doing now.

Here is what Donald Trump tweeted in 2014:

Ebola has been confirmed in NYC with officials frantically trying to find all of the people and things he had contact with. Obama's fault.

Well, does he now say that it is Trump's fault? What mind-bending hypocrisy.

Now President Donald Trump proposes rescinding the same funding that Congress passed to help handle the Ebola crisis in 2014 and that continues to keep America safe. God forbid this funding is rescinded and Ebola outbreaks reemerge. It would actually be President Trump's fault.

The President should withdraw his rescission request for this funding, as Senator LEAHY and his colleagues on the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee asked in a letter this week. That funding should be free for USAID to use as Congress intended. And Donald Trump ought to learn from his past statements. If he can blame Obama for not fully going after the Ebola outbreak in 2014, why is he cutting money for Ebola now?

MEMORIAL DAY

Finally, Madam President, on a solemn note, before the Memorial Day weekend, I want to express my deep and abiding gratitude to the men and women in the armed services who gave their last full measure of devotion in defense of our Nation and our freedoms. This morning, I am thinking of one veteran: Larry Reilly, Sr., of Syracuse, NY. He was known to us by his naval rank: Chief Reilly. Chief Reilly served on the USS *Frank E. Evans*, along with his son who carried his name, Larry Reilly, Jr. The *Frank E. Evans* sunk, tragically, in a training accident just outside the combat zone during the Vietnam war, killing 74. Chief Reilly survived the accident; Larry Reilly, Jr., did not.

Because the Department of Defense did not consider the *Frank E. Evans* disaster a wartime casualty—it was a short distance outside the combat zone—we will not find the name of Larry Reilly, Jr., on that wall of black stone a few miles from here. None of the names of the 74 sailors who died

that day grace the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Chief Reilly spent much of his energies in the years since the war trying to right that wrong, to get his son and his son's fellow shipmates who passed away in that tragedy their rightful place in our Nation's history.

Chief Reilly, I regret to inform everyone, passed away earlier this week. We who knew Chief Reilly remember him fondly. We send our condolences to his friends and his family, along with the message that his cause does not die with him. In his honor, we will continue to pressure the Pentagon to recognize the *Frank E. Evans*, and those who were killed when it suffered this tragedy, on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

This weekend, as we honor our fallen veterans in big cities and in small towns throughout this grand country, I will be thinking of Chief Reilly and his son. May we never forget the sacrifices they made, along with so many others, so that we may all enjoy the full blessings of liberty.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

(The remarks of Mr. WICKER pertaining to the introduction of S. 2955 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. WICKER. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ABORTION

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, last week, the Trump administration proposed new rules to finally bring Federal policy back in line with Federal law. This should not be controversial in a republic committed to the rule of law. But this new policy touches the question of abortion, which tempts all three branches of our Federal Government to turn truth, justice, and the law inside out in the service of violence. President Trump, to his credit, is resisting those temptations and affirming what the law should do—affirming the fact that the law should do what the law says.

The particular law in question is the Public Health Service Act. Every year, it allocates hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars to public health centers across the country. Under the 1970 statute, no Public Health Service dollars "shall be used in programs where abortion is a method of family planning." That is, the bill was expressly written to fund healthcare for lower income communities, including family planning services, but not to fund or facilitate abortion, which, of course, is the opposite of healthcare.