

around the world. It is critical for keeping America safe in a world that confronts us with everything from terrorist threats from nonstate actors to great power competition.

One way or another, the Senate will pass this bill. We will fulfill our solemn responsibility to our military, and then we will proceed to other important business for our constituents.

TAX REFORM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on one final matter, day after day and week after week, more evidence piles up that Republicans' overhaul of the U.S. Tax Code is igniting new growth and increasing opportunity all across our country.

Here is what tax reform means to middle-class Floridians. It means thousand-dollar bonuses for all 26 employees at Spellex Corporation, a software company in Tampa. It means an 11-percent increase in the base wage at a bank with more than 600 locations all across Florida. At a brewery, it meant the flexibility to purchase \$100,000 in new capital equipment and hire two additional employees. For the customers of Florida Power & Light, it meant a lower monthly bill. The utility had planned to implement a new surcharge for rebuilding after Hurricane Irma, but tax reform let them cover the cost of the entire rebuilding themselves and kept that added burden off of the shoulders of Floridians. These are just a few of the ways tax reform is helping jump-start prosperity up and down the State of Florida.

Florida's junior Senator, Mr. RUBIO, voted to pass this once-in-a-generation law. It is too bad his colleague, the senior Senator from Florida, stood with every single Democrat in the House and in the Senate and tried to block these tax cuts from reaching the American people. Apparently, he preferred that more middle-class families' money remain with the IRS. I would call that a curious decision. Perhaps our Democratic colleagues don't quite understand the importance of a thriving economy.

We recently heard some revealing comments from the House Democratic leader. Here is what she said:

Hip hip hooray, unemployment is down. What does that mean to me and my life?

Unemployment is as low as it has been since 1969. There is soaring confidence from consumers and small businesses. There are more job openings than Americans looking for work for the first time in at least 20 years. No big deal, say our Democratic colleagues. Nothing to see here. Do they really think an outstanding job market doesn't matter to American families? Well, that might help explain their voting record on tax reform and other issues, but I suspect this is just pure partnership because it is Republican policies that are helping generate this success. Our friends across the aisle want to deny reality and ignore the ob-

vious improvements for workers, families, and job creators. Fortunately, the facts are the facts. Americans know success when they see it, and Republicans will keep fighting to unleash more prosperity for the middle class.

ENERGY AND WATER, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH, AND MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 449, H.R. 5895.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 449, H.R. 5895, a bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk on the motion to proceed.

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

The 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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 449, H.R. 5895, an act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Jerry Moran, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, Johnny Isakson, John Boozman, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Marco Rubio, Mike Crapo, James E. Risch, John Hoeven, Thom Tillis, John Thune, Lisa Murkowski, Richard Burr, Roger F. Wicker.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRUMP-KIM SUMMIT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, it has now been 2 days since the Singapore summit between President Trump and Chairman Kim concluded. America remains troubled by the lack of detail in the joint statement signed by both parties, as well as some of the remarkable concessions made by President Trump, especially the freeze of joint military exercises with South Korea.

In the wake of this first meeting, it has become clearer and clearer that Chairman Kim secured far more concessions than President Trump. Yet, despite all the evidence, President Trump is acting like he just secured world peace. The President is conducting an alternative reality Presidency, and the recent summit with North Korea reveals it better than ever. President Trump says we are no

longer on the brink of war with North Korea, after President Trump himself was the one who brought us there in the first place, through bellicose rhetoric and brinkmanship on Twitter. Now the President takes a victory lap for undoing a problem he created in the first place. He pats himself on the back, saying that we are now at peace. We were on the brink of war. He forgets that he brought us there. What kind of Presidency is this?

Again President Trump tweeted yesterday: "There is no longer a nuclear threat from North Korea." Saying it, Mr. President Trump, does not make it so—once again, an alternative reality Presidency.

Despite what the President says, Chairman Kim has not agreed to dismantle North Korea's nuclear infrastructure. He has not agreed to stop enriching plutonium and uranium. He has not agreed to any sort of inspections regime. When Chairman Kim went home to North Korea, he did not even mention his vague commitment to completely denuclearize. To say there is no longer a nuclear threat from North Korea after one meeting, after signing one sheet of paper, is living in an alternative reality, and that is where it seems President Trump lives these days, more than ever before.

Finally, in place of serious, arduous negotiations, President Trump preferred signing ceremonies and proclamations. It is a pattern in his Presidency: flash over substance, sign documents in front of cameras, but skip out on the hard work behind the scenes.

The idea is to make it look as if the President is getting stuff done, but not actually doing the hard work and getting it done. We can't have a President who is interested only in playing the role of President. He has to do the job of President.

On a matter as serious as negotiations with North Korea, there is no substitute for the hard work of real diplomacy. Only in President Trump's alternative reality Presidency do photo ops and handshakes suffice, especially when North Korea still presents such a great danger to us. If tomorrow morning Kim Jong Un did a 180-degree reversal, after having gotten what he wants—the handshake, the summit, the reduction of sanctions—we would be in real danger, and President Trump acts like it is all over—an alternative reality Presidency. But when it comes to something as serious and dangerous as North Korea, it is not a joke; it is serious stuff.

The hard details, the concrete concessions, the diplomatic gains for the United States, and safety from a still dangerous North Korea simply have to wait in President Trump's world, and it doesn't even seem to matter if they never happen.

We hope sincerely that those hard details do come. We hope sincerely that the Singapore summit was only the first step, rather than the final result, because we all wish to see a diplomatic

resolution to the conflict on the Korean Peninsula. Ninety-nine percent of all Americans don't just want a photo op. We are glad that President Trump is actually trying, at least, to channel diplomacy, but he needs to stop behaving like all the hard work is behind him and open his eyes to the reality that bringing an end to a nuclear North Korea is not as easy, as simple, or as quick as a few days of photo ops.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IG REPORT

Now, Mr. President, on another subject, this afternoon we expect to receive the report of the Department of Justice's inspector general, who has been reviewing the conduct of the Department of Justice and the FBI in the runup to the 2016 election.

Although we have not yet seen the inspector general's report, there is no reason—no reason—to believe that it will provide any basis to call the special counsel's work into question.

The IG report concerns an entirely separate investigation from the Russia probe that Special Counsel Mueller is conducting. The IG report concerns issues that started long before Special Counsel Mueller was even appointed and concluded before he began his investigation.

Furthermore, the one thing we do know about what happened in late 2016 is that certain actions taken by the FBI, intentionally or not, helped the Trump campaign and hurt the Clinton campaign. The release that Candidate Clinton was under investigation and the release of comments on what she had or had not done hurt her. It will take an awful lot of spin, an awful lot of stretching for Republicans to twist that around and portray the President as some kind of victim.

Regrettably, people like Chairman NUNES, like FOX News, and like some of the Republican supporters of the President in Congress—and even like the President himself—have been running a cynical campaign to undermine the Russia investigation. It seems that the only limits to the wild conspiracies they have cooked up are their imaginations. This hurts America. We have heard new reports that Russia is looking to meddle in our 2018 elections. If foreign powers can meddle in our elections with impunity, this democracy is in trouble—in trouble—both with what the foreign powers may do and in the lack of faith in democracy it instills in people here in America and around the world. Our Republican colleagues who use this and our President who uses this as a political whipping boy are hurting our democracy.

So almost regardless of what the IG report says, we can probably expect the President, Mr. NUNES, some of the FOX News commentators, and others to invent new conspiracy theories and new calls for more special counsels to investigate the investigators. Americans of all stripes are beginning to see these theories for what they are—distortions meant to undermine or distract from Special Counsel Mueller's investigation

into the very serious efforts of Russia to influence the outcome of our elections. Well-meaning Members of both parties—both parties—should call them out for what they are.

We are waiting to hear from some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle on this. There have been too few voices on something so significant.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. President, on another matter—and this one of some bipartisanship, I am happy to say—the Senate continues to process the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act in a bipartisan way to give our military the support and certainty it needs and to make crucial updates to our national security policy.

One strong bipartisan action in this bill is dealing with the Chinese telecom giant ZTE. Let me remind this body that ZTE has violated U.S. sanctions and lied about it, but, even more importantly, its technology has been deemed a national security threat—a national security threat—to these great United States by the FBI, the Pentagon, and the FCC—all appointed by Republicans.

President Trump was flatout wrong when he decided to go easy on ZTE and allow it to start selling its technology in the United States. If you believe some reports, he did it, once again, on a whim—a phone call from President Xi, our enemy on economic matters, who is robbing American jobs and stealing our technology, and who calls him up and says: Let's undo this. President Trump, seemingly without preparation, without briefings by the military or intelligence agencies or our law enforcement agencies, just does it, hurting America.

The good news is bipartisan efforts in this body and in the House to undo what the President did and reimpose the penalties on ZTE that they deserve.

President Trump was flatout wrong when he decided to go easy on ZTE and allow it to start selling its technology in the U.S. again. That puts America at severe risk—the risk of a China-backed company spying on Americans' private information, spying on businesses, spying on our military.

ZTE is allowed to come in here? Every American should be worried when they talk on their iPhone that China is spying on them. Every American business should be worried that China is spying on their businesses and their intellectual property, and, most of all, our military leaders should be worried that China is purloining secrets that help to keep us safe.

That is why we have included a bipartisan amendment. I want to salute Senators COTTON and VAN HOLLEN for leading the charge. I want to salute folks like Senator RUBIO, who has been so strong on this issue, putting country first. I want to salute the many on our side who have agreed with that. It is the right thing to do—to not allow ZTE to be here, for both national security

interests as well as the economic importance of being tough on China.

Yesterday it was reported, of course, that the White House will oppose the amendment and may seek to strip it out of the bill. We hope cooler heads in the administration, including Secretary Mattis, Chief of Staff Kelly, and others who have had a military background, can inform the President how ill-advised his actions are.

Both parties in Congress must be resolute in blocking the President's bad, pro-China ZTE deal. Protecting America's national and economic security is paramount and any deal that jeopardizes them should be stopped in its tracks.

Senator CORKER made a point this week. He is freed of political constraints and can say what he thinks. He made a point—passionately—that this body does not have to assent to every whim of the President. It is not easy when you are of the same party as the President. I know that. But as everyone in this Chamber knows, on some major issues I opposed President Obama because I thought he was wrong, and I know how difficult it is. I know how difficult it is, but sometimes duty and country and patriotism require it. On a matter as vital as this one, having to do with America's national and economic security, we cannot back off. I urge my colleagues, particularly my friends Senators COTTON and RUBIO and CORNYN, who have been so strong and right on this issue, to hang tough, especially when we get to conference.

I want to thank our Acting Chair of the Armed Services Committee for understanding the security risks and for working in a bipartisan way.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ABE SCHUMER

Finally, Mr. President, if my colleagues will indulge me a few more words, they are personal, but they are meaningful.

Today is Flag Day. It is also my father's 95th birthday. This upcoming weekend we will celebrate Father's Day.

My father was a World War II vet over in Burma, and when he came back to Brooklyn after the war, he took over a small exterminating business from his father, my grandpa. I often joke that we are the only family who associates the smell of DDT with love, because my dad would come home from the office smelling of all of those chemicals.

My father hated his job. He paced the floor Sunday nights at 2 a.m., unable to sleep, dreading going to work on Monday. But there was great honor in what he did. He never complained. He was supporting the family, even if it was in a job he was stuck with after getting back from World War II. He labored for many years in a job that wasn't his passion and passed on his idea of serving without complaining to give his children, grandchildren, and, God willing, in November, his soon-to-be first great-grandchild—my daughter

is pregnant—the idea that we could follow our dreams, standing on his strong and weary shoulders. Mine led me here. I will never stop being grateful to my dad for that.

So allow me to wish my father a happy birthday today and to say that I look forward to seeing him and my mom Selma, who turned 90 just on D-Day, as well as my wife and two daughters this weekend for Father's Day, and I wish all Americans the same joy in celebrating Father's Day this weekend.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 5515, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5515) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Inhofe/McCain modified amendment No. 2282, in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell (for Toomey) amendment No. 2700 (to amendment No. 2282), to require congressional review of certain regulations issued by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States.

Reed/Warren amendment No. 2756 (to amendment No. 2700), to require the authorization of appropriation of amounts for the development of new or modified nuclear weapons.

Lee amendment No. 2366 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 2282), to clarify that an authorization to use military force, a declaration of war, or any similar authority does not authorize the detention without charge or trial of a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States.

Reed amendment No. 2842 (to amendment No. 2366), to require the authorization of appropriation of amounts for the development of new or modified nuclear weapons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, first, let me make sure we get into the RECORD as accurately as I am saying right now, to Abe Schumer, that his little boy's most predictable adversary wishes him today a happy birthday.

Mr. SCHUMER. Thank you. I thank the Senator.

Mr. INHOFE. That was very touching. Thank you very much, I say to my friend, Senator SCHUMER.

Mr. President, I want to start today by giving an update as to where we are in the process for the NDAA.

At 10:30 a.m., which is coming up shortly, we are going to have a cloture vote on TOOMEY's amendment that applies the REINS Act to the CFIUS rule-making process. We all know what that

is. We all know there is opposition. If that vote fails, we will immediately roll into a cloture vote on the substitute amendment. That is our amendment, which we will be considering as the bill. Then, we hope to invoke cloture on the underlying bill this afternoon before we head out of town. If we are able to do that, we will have the final passage vote on Monday when we return.

We are also working diligently as we speak to clear an additional managers' package. One of the things we were talking about, and I have been somewhat critical of some of my fellow Members, is the fact that we have been operating under rules—and we have gone through this in years past; it is almost predictable that one individual will try to use this bill as a must-pass bill. Everyone knows it is going to pass; it has passed for the last 57 years. So, logically, it is where you put an amendment that is very difficult to pass. I don't blame them for that. I would do the same thing. Nonetheless, I wouldn't do it if it caused all other amendments to not be considered.

I am hoping we will be able to have a managers' package. I have reason to believe and I am optimistic about that, and it would be a great thing to have. I don't know how many of these amendments would ultimately be in the managers' package, but we are talking about a lot of amendments, and we have already cleared many amendments.

Anyone who criticizes the process that we are going through right now may not be aware of how many amendments we have considered in our work on this in committee. We are talking about some 300 amendments, and since that time, countless amendments have been agreed to on both sides. That is where we are today.

It will be a great victory for all of us in this Chamber if we can get the managers' amendments agreed to, and hopefully that will be true.

I can't neglect that today is the Army's 243rd birthday. I actually attended a birthday party for the U.S. Army quite a while before a lot of you were even born, when I was in Fort Lee, VA, in the U.S. Army. We would have been celebrating the 180th birthday at that time. Back when we were celebrating the 180th birthday, I never dreamed I would be around to celebrate the 243rd birthday of the U.S. Army.

The Army is actually older than this country is. In 1775, brave Americans joined the cause to fight for the life and liberty we hold so dear now. It is the same motivation that still inspires the service of the men and women who join the Army and, indeed, all of the service branches today.

It is for those men and women that we are here today. That is what this is all about—the NDAA that we are considering today. It has provisions for individuals; it has specific provisions for the men and women on the ground in harm's way, including the largest pay

raise in 10 years. It means more opportunities for qualified servicemembers to receive promotions throughout their careers. I think it is a recognition that in the time in which this is taking place, there is a new emphasis on defending America.

I don't say this critically, but the last administration had a policy which said that we can't put any more money in sequestration for the military unless we do the same for nondefense spending. A lot of people agreed with that. I don't agree with that.

We are now at the point where we have broken parity, so I say to individuals who are making career decisions: Help is on its way; this is a good time to do it. Part of that is because of the modernization of the personnel system in this legislation.

It also authorizes \$40 million for supplemental impact aid support. With an expansion of some military activities, individuals who are involved are exempt from the taxes that support our schools. That is a problem we have. Every State has a problem, but it is probably more severe in Oklahoma than elsewhere. I would like to let individuals in my State of Oklahoma, at five different installations, know that help is on its way, and we are going to try to do a better job with the supplemental impact aid than we have done in the past.

This bill increases funding for the personnel, improving the quality of life for the forces and their families. Most importantly, it increases end strength. It is not as much as I would like to see, but it does grow the force, so servicemembers can have sufficient time to be with their families and train before redeploying.

That is what we are doing right now. It is going to take a lot of additional funding. We are authorizing that funding, and we are going to be rebuilding.

I have to remind people in the outside world who are not here in Washington that we do have a problem. The assumption that America has the best of everything at one time was true, but it is not true. I always document that because it is a pretty strong statement.

Right now, if we look at our artillery in terms of rapid fire and range, both Russia and China have better range and rapid fire than we have in the United States. We know we have done nothing with our nuclear arsenal for the last 10 years. At the same time, our triad system has been static, and Russia and China have improved theirs. They are ahead of us in that area.

There is a new type of defense system that actually has a defense mechanism that goes five times the speed of sound. It is still in the experimental stage, but both China and Russia are ahead of us. The bill we are considering now, ironically on the birthday of the U.S. Army, is going to correct that. It is going to take a little while, but it is ultimately going to correct that.

We have 20 or more minutes before we cast the two very significant votes