

offers that, I believe, would glide through the House and Senate: No. 1, pass the six bipartisan appropriations bills and a 1-year CR for DHS or, No. 2, pass a 1-year CR for all seven remaining appropriations bills.

Leader MCCONNELL proposed a short-term CR just a few minutes ago. We would have preferred one of our two options, but I am glad the leader thinks the government should not shut down over the President's demand for a wall, and the Democrats will support this CR. The President and the House should follow that lead because shutting down the government over Christmas is a terrible idea—one of the worst to come down the pike in a very long time.

FIRST STEP ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the CJR, criminal justice reform, I am really deeply heartfelt in thanking everyone who was involved in the criminal justice reform legislation.

I thank Senator DURBIN, for whom this issue was a year's-long passion. When Senator DURBIN gets his teeth into an issue, he does not let go until he achieves it, and he is great at getting it done. It was a real victory for him.

Senator BOOKER felt this issue so passionately from his residents in Newark and in seeing what had happened to friends of his and people he had known. He was a brilliant legislative tactician in knowing just how far to push and in getting the most he could from a Congress that was not from our side of the aisle.

Senator WHITEHOUSE carried the mantle of making sure that while people are in prison, they are given adequate preparation so when they come out, they don't become recidivists again—free from drugs, with job training—and so they can become useful and productive members of society.

Senator HARRIS also added her passion and experience as attorney general to the great arguments for this bill.

I don't want to leave out colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Senator GRASSLEY played a real role as a statesman. Senator LEE did tremendous work on this bill. Again, like with Senator BOOKER but from an opposite point of view, he knew when to hold and knew when to fold.

I thank all of them because this bill will make an extraordinary difference in countless lives by making our sentencing laws fairer and smarter, by giving judges more discretion so low-level, nonviolent drug offenses will not always be subject to arbitrary mandatory minimums; by giving prisoners with good behavior and who work hard to rehabilitate themselves better opportunities to prepare for their integration back into society as productive citizens who can contribute to their communities; and by ending the most abusive practices of our criminal justice system, like juvenile solitary con-

finement and the shackling of pregnant prisoners.

The bill got 87 votes. Those 87 votes are an entreaty to the new Congress to do more. It is called FIRST STEP for a lot of reasons, one being that many of us feel we have to go further and do more. Next year, hopefully, we can, and the resounding support from both sides of the aisle that this bill got should help us. It should importune us not to let this be the last proposal but the first in this area. The law will bring more justice to our justice system. I was proud to vote for it and so grateful for the work of my colleagues who pulled a diverse coalition together to get it across the line.

CHINA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on China, negotiations are ongoing between the Trump administration and Chinese officials about a potential detente in our trading relationship. Of import to the Chinese is the recent arrest of Huawei's CFO on charges of violating U.S. sanctions law, which is only one area of concern when it comes to Huawei's technology.

Let me be very clear. The United States should not make any—any—concessions until and unless China makes credible and enforceable commitments to end all forms of theft and extortion of American intellectual property.

As Ambassador Lighthizer recently pointed out—and I cannot commend him enough for the good job he is doing—during the Obama administration alone, China made no fewer than 10 independent commitments to get rid of forced technology transfers and cyber theft policies.

As we know, China cyber espionage continues unabated. Just last week, it was confirmed that China was behind the data breach of Marriott hotels, and we know that they continue to require any company that sells things—and there are so many companies that sell things in China—to transfer their technology.

If we continue on this path that we have for the last 10 or 15 years, we will no longer be the leading economy in the world. All the great ideas Americans have because of our free and open and entrepreneurial system will be stolen, purloined, and China will dominate.

We are there for fair competition. China doesn't compete fairly. I have to say, neither the Bush nor the Obama administration stood up strongly to China. This administration shows signs of doing it.

My message to President Trump: Don't back off. Follow Mr. Lighthizer, not those in your administration, as reported, the Senate, Mr. Mnuchin, Mr. Ross, and others, who want to settle for next to nothing. That would be a disgrace.

President Trump has tried the conciliatory approach. He let ZTE off the

hook in hopes of gaining concessions from China on North Korea and got none. North Korea continues to expand its nuclear capabilities.

Mr. President, do not make the same mistake again by interfering in the case of Huawei's CFO. Mr. President, do not capitulate on U.S. trade policy without meaningful, ironclad commitments from China to end its predatory trade practices, its theft of our intellectual property, and until China allows U.S. companies to compete freely in its markets without technology transfer or other coercions. To do otherwise would put the future of this great Nation at great risk.

TRIBUTE TO BILL NELSON

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, Mr. President, I have come here to speak about a dear friend and a wonderful colleague, the senior Senator from Florida, BILL NELSON.

A Floridian born and bred, BILL NELSON didn't grow up with a silver spoon in his mouth. Everything he has achieved in life, he achieved because he worked for it. Hard work is one of his credos.

In high school, BILL raised cattle in his spare time. That is not every teenager's idea of a good time, and that is something we never did in Brooklyn, but it led to a lifetime association with Florida's 4-H Program, which continues to support Florida's agricultural community today.

Just as important, BILL's extracurricular animal husbandry allowed him to save up the \$10,000 he needed to attend college at the University of Florida. Even then, public service was never far from this generous man's thoughts. He gave his first political speech as a candidate for junior high school president—a race he won. In college, he interned for Florida's Senator George Smathers, whose son Bruce happened to be his roommate.

That internship turned out to be the lesser contribution of BILL's friendship with Bruce because a few years after law school, Bruce would introduce Bill to Grace Cavert, who became Grace Nelson, the love of BILL's life.

For those of us who know BILL, we know he loves Grace more than anything in the world. They are truly a dream team. Just to watch them together, caring about each other so, brings joy to anyone's heart—certainly mine. Many of my colleagues, of course, know Grace as well and have worked closely with her, not the least reason being that she is the authority in that household today.

With Grace by his side, Senator NELSON embarked on what would be a distinguished career in public service in Florida as Congressman, tax commissioner, and eventually Senator. Of course, along the way, Senator NELSON would also earn the title of "payload specialist" aboard the Space Shuttle *Columbia*. As most folks know, then-Congressman Nelson, who was chair of

the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, participated in a weeklong space flight on the Columbia. What most folks don't know, however, is that the launch for the mission was aborted not once, not twice, but three times. Eventually, though, the liftoff was achieved, and BILL became only the second sitting Member of Congress to leave Earth's atmosphere, where, in his words, he saw "the blue brilliance of the earth from the edge of the heavens."

There is a name given to the shift in perspective experienced by astronauts called the overview effect. Seeing the Earth from the window of a space shuttle—that pale-blue marble in the vast emptiness of space—makes you realize how fragile and also how beautiful our planet truly is. Senator NELSON experienced something of an overview effect, and although he already cared about the environment, he became a lifelong champion of environmental causes.

BILL NELSON protected and preserved the Everglades, Florida's beaches, and offshore waters by standing against offshore drilling. There is none in Florida, and I have to say that the reason is sitting right to my left—BILL NELSON. Time and again, when rapacious companies and others wanted to drill and risk the beauty of Florida's coastline and its economic vitality, there was BILL NELSON, like Horatio at the bridge, preventing it from happening. After the BP oilspill, BILL NELSON made sure Florida's gulf communities got the restitution they deserved from BP's settlement.

Senator NELSON has always been a loud voice speaking about the need for action on climate change, as his beloved State of Florida gets hit by ever more powerful storms and the low-lying areas, like Miami, get flooded regularly.

Of course, seeing the Earth from space didn't just focus BILL's eyes downward. This man is capable of doing many things at once. He kept them firmly fixed on the horizons as well. It will be a long time before the Senate sees a champion for NASA and space exploration like BILL NELSON. It may never see one as committed again.

The Senate, the State of Florida, and the country will miss BILL NELSON, as will Iris and I. He was even-tempered even in tempestuous times. He was always civil in the midst of such incivility. When so many of us are prone to looking backward, trying to figure out what we did wrong or what we could have done differently, BILL was always looking forward and upward.

I have had the pleasure not only of being BILL's colleague but being his friend. What a fine human being. One of my greatest regrets here is that some fine human beings are not going to be with us next time, and this Chamber and this country will show they are missed.

There is nothing BILL is now looking forward to more than spending time with his beloved Grace and visiting his children, Bill Junior and Nan Ellen.

Every one of us salutes the great senior Senator from Florida, everything he has accomplished in his distinguished career in the Senate, and just the great man that he is.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding previous Senate action on the House message to accompany H.R. 695, today's motions and amendments remain in status quo and the earlier motion to concur and the motion to refer with instructions and amendments Nos. 1923 and 1924 be withdrawn.

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

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 proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report:

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Joseph Maguire, of Florida, to be Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks.

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

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of my remarks, Senator PAUL be recognized for up to 15 minutes.

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

TRIBUTE TO JOHN CORNYN

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I have a message to deliver this morning, but after sitting here and listening through and enjoying the comments that were made, I wanted to at least make one comment about the Senator from Texas.

In my real life, for a number of years, I was a builder and developer in South Texas. I know South Texas very well. I know the border well. That is why I have been down there so much and am so interested in, of course, the border wall, which we are going to have. But we have a wonderful friend and a person who has been a good friend. You would think he is dead, but he is not. He is very much alive, and he is back doing his full-time job.

I want to say that the time I spent with him down there in Texas long before he was even in the position he is in today—he has been a great hero down there not just to the people in Texas but people all over the country.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. President, as far as the comments that were made by the minority leader from New York, it is easy to stand here and talk about this. Yes, I know the Democrats—they have all gotten together, and they don't want to have a wall, but they are going to have a wall. Walls work.

Look at the record of having walls. San Diego built their wall in 1992, and illegal traffic dropped 92 percent after that. Ninety-two percent. El Paso built their wall—I remember when that was built—in 1993, and illegal traffic dropped 72 percent. Tucson built their wall in 2000, and illegal traffic dropped 90 percent. Yuma, in Arizona, built theirs in 2005, and illegal traffic dropped. It has happened everywhere. Just look at Israel and the successes they have had and how many Israelis would be dead today if it weren't for the wall they have.

We are one of the few countries without a wall. We are going to have a wall, and it is going to be funded. So if anyone is listening to what is going on down here, just be assured that we are going to have our wall.

REMEMBERING GEORGE H.W. BUSH

Mr. President, I want to make one comment on something that happened 3 or 4 weeks ago, when we lost an American hero. Everyone talked about George H.W. Bush, and they talked about their experiences. The reason I wanted to wait a while before making any comments on that is because I have known George H.W. Bush for many, many years, before I was actually in politics. My wife Kay and I are praying for the entire Bush family as the Nation mourns and honors one of America's loyal sons.

George H.W. Bush was one of the only men I have ever known who could truly love someone into changing his mind. He loved God. He loved his family. He loved his country and served it tirelessly with passion.

Listen to all of the things he has done. He was a naval aviator, an Ambassador, Director of the CIA, President of the United States, and Vice President of the United States. He has done it all.

George H.W. Bush put service to his Nation and love for his family above all else. Kay and I have known the Bush family for a long time, dating back to their time in the Texas oil fields. He would go back and forth to what he referred to as his second home, which is Tulsa, OK. We were friends before we were in politics, and I am grateful for that friendship. I will always remember that friendship.

This portrays him very well. Back when I was mayor of Tulsa and George Bush was Vice President, he came to Tulsa, OK, to do a fundraising event. It