

Here is one you will like: “Upgrading all existing buildings in the United States and building new buildings.”

Don’t want a Federal bureaucrat to decide how your house should look or what size it should be? Don’t want to pay to rebuild the entire downtown? Don’t want to tear down your small business so it can be replaced by the government? Too bad. These new social planners know best.

Here is another quote: “Meeting 100 percent of the power demand in the United States”—listen to this—without using any American fossil fuels or nuclear power whatsoever.

That is right. It is the War on Coal on steroids. Say goodbye to all of those jobs, and say hello to a new wave of cronyism that would make the half a billion dollars in taxpayer losses from Solyndra look like pocket change. Everything in your garage will have to go too. A lengthy background document that this plan’s authors have since tried to scrub from the internet helpfully explains that a Green New Deal would mean “replac[ing] every combustion engine vehicle.”

How about this one: “Guaranteeing a job . . . to all people of the United States.”

That one is buried on page No. 14—a government-guaranteed job for everyone. That may sound like a good utopian goal, but their handy background document makes the real intention known, promising “economic security for all”—listen to this—even for those who are “unwilling to work.”

That is a lot of magic wand-waving, but I have only scratched the surface. The background document also called for a plan to “build out high-speed rail at a scale where air travel stops becoming necessary.” As our colleague Senator HIRONO pointed out, this might be a tough sell in Hawaii or in Puerto Rico or in other places. The Governor of California just scaled back a high-speed rail project in California because, as he put it, it “would cost too much and, respectfully, take too long.” Even with heavy Federal subsidies, it is billions over budget and behind schedule.

That document also promised to, magically, “remove pollution and . . . emissions from manufacturing” just like that. I wonder why nobody has thought of that before.

So it is clear what we have here. It is the far left’s Santa Claus wish list that is dressed up to look like serious policy.

Bad ideas are nothing new, and silly proposals come and go, but the philosophies and the ideas behind this textbook socialism are not just foolish; they are dangerous. Their ascent in the Democratic Party is a real threat to American prosperity and to working families.

Chairman BARRASSO reported that one analysis found that this proposal could increase the average household’s power bills by as much as—listen to this—\$3,800 a year. Another estimate predicted that families would have to

spend hundreds of billions of dollars just to replace common household appliances with Washington-approved models.

What about the total cost to the government for this socialist shopping spree? One recent estimate has that pegged at a cool \$93 trillion over the first 10 years—more than the combined GDP of the entire world. Let me say that again. Their plan is predicted to cost more than the entire economic output of every country on Earth combined.

Remember what the American people are supposedly getting in return—a sprawling socialist state to rule over us, a host of good jobs and key industries ripped away, and an end to every energy source that the middle class can actually afford. Remember, China has already sailed past the United States in terms of carbon emissions. The far left still wants us to unilaterally disarm our whole economy—lots of pain for us and no meaningful gain in containing global emissions. We will go bankrupt, but at least it will be great for China. I bet they are cheering in the streets.

So the way I see it—the way most Republicans see it—is this proposal is either a brilliant piece of comedy or a disastrous socialist vision that is totally alien to the United States of America.

What about our Democratic colleagues? Where do they stand?

Recently, I announced that Senators will get to go on record and vote for or against all of this, but curiously enough, this planned vote was met with outrage from the very people who were claiming to champion the proposal.

Last night, our colleague from Rhode Island said it was “truly preposterous” for me to schedule a vote on the Green New Deal. That is not exactly a ringing endorsement of a plan the Democrats claim to support. He does not seem to be alone in his uneasiness. At one point, the Speaker of the House dismissed her party’s own plan as the “green dream.” The senior Senator from California worried publicly the other day that there is no way to pay for it. As I noted, the assistant Democratic leader summed up a lot of people’s thinking when he asked: “What in the heck is this?” I think a great many Americans all across the country are asking themselves the very same thing—what the heck is this?

Before much longer, every Member of this body will have a chance to go on record, loud and clear. Do our Democratic colleagues really support this fantasy novel that is masquerading as public policy? Do they really want to completely upend Americans’ lives to enact some grand socialist vision? Do they really want this to be their Democratic Party? Well, before long, the Senate will vote, and these questions will be answered.

Mr. President, 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

THE GREEN NEW DEAL

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I heard Leader MCCONNELL knocking the Green New Deal. I would ask the leader—and we are going to keep asking him and every Republican in this Chamber—what they would do about climate change, about global warming.

So, Leader MCCONNELL, do you believe that climate change, global warming, is real? Yes or no.

Second, do you believe that climate change, global warming, is caused by humans?

And, three, do you believe that Congress should take immediate action to deal with the problem?

Until Leader MCCONNELL and his Republican majority answer those questions, the games they are playing here will have no meaning. This is not a debate. It is a diversion. It is a sham.

Democrats will be introducing a resolution in a few days—shortly—that says we believe in these three things, and we will be asking our Republicans if they support or oppose that resolution.

The silence of the Republican majority on climate change is enormous. Is it because the oil industry gives so much money to our Republican friends? Is it because they are antisience? What is the reason?

Not a single bill has been brought to the floor to deal with climate change or global warming in the 5 years Leader MCCONNELL has been the majority leader. What is your plan, Leader MCCONNELL? What is your answer? We know what you don’t like. What do you like? Anything?

NORTH KOREA

Now, the Trump administration is in the middle of two crucial negotiations with foreign capitals, the result of which will have ramifications for decades.

In Vietnam, President Trump will meet with Chairman Kim to continue discussions over the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, while at the same time administration officials continue negotiations with Beijing over a major trade pact. In both instances, President Trump would have the best chance of having success if he articulated clear objectives and maintained a hard line until those objectives were achieved.

For a time, that approach—the right approach—seemed to hold sway at the White House, as sanctions and tariffs brought both North Korea and China to the negotiating table. Recently, however, President Trump seems headed

down the path of capitulation on both North Korea and China, prepared to trade away our leverage in exchange for flimsy agreements. The President can't seem to stick to a policy, even when it is beginning to work. So eager is he for that quick photo op.

There is an old expression that March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. Well, based on all reports, when it comes to North Korea and China, spring is coming a little early at the White House. President Trump, on both China and North Korea, came in like a lion, with tough rhetoric and hard-line policies, but now President Trump is poised to go out like a lamb, meekly accepting half-baked agreements from both capitals for the sheer sake of it.

In North Korea the highest priority of U.S. foreign policy has been the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, as well as the cessation of human rights abuses by the brutal, despotic, and murderous Kim regime. But just this weekend, before leaving for Hanoi, President Trump said: "I don't want to rush anybody; as long as there's no testing, we're happy." That is a far cry from the complete denuclearization that he called for in the past, and it signals a dangerous softening of our position before the talks even started.

The irony of ironies is that for all the talk of "maximum pressure" and "fire and fury," President Trump's stance on North Korea may wind up far weaker than Hillary Clinton's. I know he doesn't like to hear that, but the truth is the truth.

President Trump seems more interested in touting his warm relationship with Chairman Kim as an accomplishment in and of itself. President Trump's calling a brutal autocrat a friend on Twitter is no substitute for actually achieving something for the American people in Hanoi.

I hate to say it, but it would be absolutely incredible and even pathetic if President Trump were giving in to North Korea for the sake of a photo op to knock Michael Cohen's hearing from the front page, but if the past behavior of the President is any guide, something like that is, unfortunately, totally conceivable.

CHINA

Now, Mr. President, the same situation is playing out in China. After starting down the right path, press reports indicate that President Trump appears to accept something far short of his initial aims. President Trump has already started promoting a "signing summit" at Mar-a-Lago before an agreement has even been inked. Just imagine how that undercuts our negotiators—to say already he is going to sign something when we are eyeball to eyeball with the Chinese. That is not the art of the deal. That is the art of capitulation.

As the Times reported this morning, "Mr. Trump has grown impatient with the talks, and a consensus is growing

in Washington that Mr. Trump will ultimately accept a weak deal." Shame on him if he does.

China is robbing and stealing our family jewels: American industrial know-how, American information technology, Americans' ability to do things.

When we are good at it, China doesn't let us in and compete, unless we give them all of the knowledge of how to do it themselves, and China steals our intellectual property. Just 2 weeks ago, there was another hacking—and now we are going to capitulate?

What the Times goes on to say is that "the Chinese have so far declined to make concrete commitments to reform their economy that the administration has demanded"—these are the words of the New York Times—"including ending China's practice of subsidizing companies, engaging in cyber-theft and forcing American companies to hand over intellectual property to Chinese partners in order to do business there."

Even our business community does not want the President to capitulate. I met with a bunch of them. They want him to stay strong. Everyone wants him to stay strong. Now he is caving.

This President cannot take a policy and pursue it to its end. His attention span is so small, his desire for immediate gratification seems to be so large that the American worker loses. If we capitulate to China, that American worker will lose for decades. That American worker's children will lose.

So I say to President Trump, it would be a momentous failure if you relent now and don't receive meaningful, enforceable, and verifiable commitments on structural reforms to China's unfair trade policy. Simply buying more soybeans or buying more materials or planes is not going to solve the structural problem, and in a few months China will continue to unfairly gain on us—not right.

So, I wonder, where are all the supposed hawks? Where is Secretary Pompeo on China and North Korea? Where is Ambassador Bolton? Do they feel they can argue internally with the President and he overrules them and that is that? What good is it for them to be there? Oh, yes, they can say: It would have been even worse if we weren't there. That is no way to do policy when either American safety, in regard to North Korea, or American economic prosperity in the future, in regard to China, is at stake.

I believe Ambassador Lighthizer has made a sincere effort to do the right thing on China, but his efforts are constrained by a President who seems intent on weakening his hand every few weeks. Again, where is Bolton? Where is Pompeo? Where are they? They have been hawks on these two issues their whole lives. Now they get in the administration; they just go along, when they were among the loudest critics of President Obama and President Clinton? Not right. Not good for America.

It just so happens that two of President Trump's signature foreign policy issues will come to a head at roughly the same time. There are historic opportunities here to make America safe by removing nuclear weapons from a rogue regime and to end two decades of rapacious Chinese trade policy. We can finally put American companies on a level playing field with our largest competitor. If the President, having brought the Chinese to the table with tough sanctions and tariffs, takes 10 percent or 20 percent of what we can get, that would be very bad for this country, American workers, and American incomes. As they continue to stay flat or decline, one of the main reasons is unfair trade practices by China. We have to be strong and tough. We can win this fight if we can stay strong.

The bottom line is this. If over the course of the 1 month President Trump capitulates to both Beijing and Pyongyang, the foreign policy of his Presidency will be in shambles. It will zig and zag to no real accomplishment. More importantly, the national security and economic security of the American people will greatly suffer as a consequence.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip is recognized.

THE GREEN NEW DEAL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in a document later removed from her website, one of the Green New Deal's sponsors had this to say about the Green New Deal: "The question isn't how we will pay for it, but what we will do with our new shared prosperity."

"The question isn't how we will pay for it . . ." That was the quote. That is a pretty staggering statement when you consider that the Green New Deal plans to upend most of American society as we know it, from transportation to healthcare, but I suspect there was a simple reason the Green New Deal authors didn't want to talk about how to pay for it—because they couldn't figure out how.

This week, one think tank released a first estimate of what the Green New Deal would cost, and here is the answer: between \$51 trillion and \$93 trillion over 10 years—between \$51 trillion and \$93 trillion. Those numbers are so large that they are almost impossible to process.

Just for perspective, consider the fact that the entire Federal budget for 2019 is less than \$5 trillion. That is the entire Federal budget—defense spending, domestic priorities, Medicare and Medicaid, Social Security, everything.

The Green New Deal could end up costing \$9.3 trillion each year—double the current Federal budget—and the government would still have to pay for a lot of other priorities on top of that. That money wouldn't cover defense spending, or Social Security, or a number of other urgent needs.

The Green New Deal would assuredly raise Americans' energy bills, but that is just a tiny fraction of what Democrats' Green New Deal, which goes far