

became law in September. This legislation will help support the development of advanced nuclear reactor designs, which will increase America's supply of clean and reliable energy.

Here is what the junior Democratic Senator from Rhode Island had to say about this legislation:

Partnerships between the private sector and our world-class scientists at national labs will help bring new technologies forward to compete against polluting forms of energy. . . . I am proud to have worked with Senator CRAPO to get this bipartisan energy legislation over the finish line.

Here is what the junior Democratic Senator from New Jersey had to say:

Reducing our carbon emissions as quickly as possible requires prioritizing the development and commercialization of advanced nuclear reactors, which will be even safer and more efficient than current reactors. Passage of this legislation will provide critical support to startup companies here in the United States that are investing billions of dollars in these next generation reactor designs.

Here is what the Democratic whip himself had to say:

I was proud to join Senator CRAPO on this bipartisan bill.

I could go on. I could talk about the 2018 farm bill, which, in the words of Earth Justice, contains "a number of provisions that incentivize more climate-friendly practices." I serve on that committee. I was involved in the conservation title and the drafting of that, including a number of provisions in there. I could talk about the provision in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 to ensure the completion of our first two new nuclear reactors in a generation, which will prevent 10 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually; or the extension of wind and solar clean energy tax credits; or the bipartisan America's Water Infrastructure Act, which will help advance hydro-power projects—a significant source of emission-free energy.

Suffice it to say that Republican Senators have passed more than one bill to protect our environment and help America achieve a clean energy future, and we are not stopping here. So why all the misdirection on the part of the Democrats? I am sure Democrats think it is politically advantageous to portray themselves as the only party that is invested in clean energy.

Then, of course, Democrats are desperate to distract from the details of the \$93 trillion Green New Deal that their Presidential candidates have embraced. That is right—I said \$93 trillion. One think tank has released the first estimate of what the Green New Deal will cost, and the answer is between \$51 trillion and \$93 trillion over 10 years. That is an incomprehensible amount of money.

For comparison, the entire Federal budget for 2019 is less than \$5 trillion. The 2017 gross domestic product for the entire world, the entire planet, came to \$80.7 trillion—more than \$10 trillion less than Democrats are proposing to spend on the Green New Deal. Ninety-

three trillion dollars is more than the amount of money the U.S. Government has spent in its entire history. Since 1789, when the Constitution went into effect, the Federal Government has spent a total of \$83.2 trillion. That is right—it has taken us 230 years to spend the amount of money Democrats want to spend in 10.

Even attempting to pay for the Green New Deal would devastate working families, who would be hit with incredibly high new taxes. Let's be very clear about this. This is not a plan that can be paid for by taxing the rich. Taxing every family making more than \$200,000 a year at a 100-percent tax rate for 10 years wouldn't get Democrats anywhere close to \$93 trillion. Taxing every family making more than \$100,000 a year at a 100-percent tax rate for 10 years would still leave Democrats short of \$93 trillion.

Of course, the amount of money we are talking about, as horrifying as it is, is just one negative aspect of the Green New Deal. Democrats' Green New Deal is a full-blown socialist fantasy that would put the government in charge of not just energy but healthcare and all the other various aspects of the American economy.

One of the Green New Deal's authors posted and then deleted a document from her website noting that the Green New Deal would provide economic security for those unable or unwilling to work. That is right—in the Democrats' socialist fantasies, apparently the government will provide you with economic security if you are unwilling to work. Let's hope there are enough willing workers to fund those who are unwilling to work. After all, that \$93 trillion has to come from somewhere.

It is no wonder that Democrats are trying to change the subject when it comes to the Green New Deal. They don't want to have to defend the specifics of their plan because their plan is, frankly, indefensible.

If the Democrats would like to have a serious discussion about energy, they should repudiate the unfathomably expensive Green New Deal and join Republicans in focusing on ways to secure a clean energy future without devastating the economy or bankrupting working families.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTIAN COOK

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise to recognize a gentleman by the name of Christian Cook.

Christian Cook has been a vital member of the staff on the Senate's Select Committee on Intelligence for the last 8 years and has been my personal des-

ignee on the committee for the majority of that time. Throughout Christian's career, he has continuously put his country above himself and has been tirelessly dedicated to achieving excellence in all areas of his work across the national security spectrum.

His passion to serve first led him to become a special agent for the U.S. Secret Service, where he expertly conducted investigations of violations of Federal criminal law and threats against the President and Vice President. He worked diligently to ensure that the safety and security of the President, the Vice President, and numerous foreign heads of state were without question. Christian also served a pivotal role in the design, preparation and execution of the security plan for the 2005 Presidential Inaugural Parade. Christian's focus on supporting national security efforts continued when he transitioned to the private sector.

While working with Booz Allen Hamilton, he skillfully developed time-sensitive and complex tactical solutions for classified U.S. intelligence clients. With The Cohen Group, Christian provided strategic insights that enabled key clients to meet their evolving global security needs. At the USIS, he also seamlessly managed complex, classified programs for the U.S. intelligence community and for Federal law enforcement Agencies, substantially strengthening their counterterrorism capabilities.

Christian subsequently joined the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. It is hard to know where to start to list his many accomplishments. In the last 8 years, he has done everything, and he has done it all to his own exceedingly high standards. He initially served with the audits team and was intricately involved in the committee's oversight of the U.S. intelligence community's 17 intelligence Agencies. By conducting thorough reviews of specific intelligence programs, his expert knowledge and deep insight enabled the committee to identify items of concern and outline proposals for their improvement.

It quickly became clear to me that Christian had an unsurpassed capability to conduct intelligence oversight but also a unique ability to analyze complex challenges and identify solutions. At that time, I personally selected him to be my designee on the committee. As my designee, he expertly analyzed and advised me on the myriad of threats across the intelligence landscape.

He also flawlessly facilitated the development, passage, and implementation of critical intelligence-related legislation in this body.

Several of Christian's colleagues have had the privilege to work with him for years. When asked what words best describe Christian, numerous clear themes resound, such as dedication, his passion for our Nation and its security,

very high standards, devotion to mission, and for always ensuring that the trains run on time.

Without fail, Christian is the person all staff goes to for insight, for guidance, and assistance with getting their job done. His colleagues appreciate his honesty, his integrity, and his ability to disarm anyone with a laugh and a warm word of appreciation.

When I became chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Christian was my clear choice to serve as my senior policy adviser and deputy staff director. In these critical roles, Christian expertly led the development and implementation of the strategic direction for the 15 Members of the U.S. Senate who sit on this committee and the committee staff. Regularly arriving at the office long before sunrise, he directed the day-to-day planning and execution of the committee's key oversight functions, to include establishing and managing the committee's complex open and closed hearing schedule, facilitating the confirmation process for numerous Presidential nominees, and managing the ongoing interactions between members of the committee and the leaders of 17 intelligence Agencies. He also adeptly coordinated the collaboration with other congressional committees and managed the daily activities of the committee's professional staff and administrative staff.

Separately and concurrently, Christian also continued to serve as my intelligence and national security advisor, providing keen insight and valuable advice on the full range of national security challenges. Throughout my time as chairman of the committee, I have always known I could count on Christian to provide me with critical background and sage advice on every issue, without fail, thanks in part to his uncanny ability to call to mind any facts he picked up in the last 8 years.

I note for the record the length of this list of responsibilities reflects Christian's hard work, long hours, and dedication. It also highlights the value he brings to me and to the committee. Christian has the foresight to anticipate problems, the instinct to pick the right time to drive forward, and the superior judgment to know the path right ahead.

Christian's tireless service was made possible not just because of his own dedication and character but because he was confident in the love and support of his wife Christina and the adoration of three young and precious sons—Casson, Callen, and Caulder. For their own sacrifice and for their willingness to share Christian with the committee, we are indebted to them.

I might say, on a personal note, at times he could, on weekends or breaks, be home with his three boys and his wife, instead he has been on an airplane with me flying somewhere around the world that nobody would consider a vacation site—traveling halfway around the world and back in

less than 3½ days, and that was done regularly. Now he will have an opportunity to get some normalcy to his life.

Christian's unwavering support to me has been impeccable. I am delighted to have the opportunity to publicly thank him and to note my personal appreciation for his dedication. He has earned our deepest respect, our admiration, and we will miss his devotion and his friendship. His positive impact on U.S. national security and his legacy within the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence will remain for years to come. I know I join the other 14 members in publicly saying to Christian that we wish him great success in the next chapter of life. We hope this one gives him the opportunity to see his children grow and to grow his relationship with his wife.

I yield the floor.

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

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

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, the news cycle is relentless here in Washington, DC, and between cable TV and social media, it is pretty hard to remember what happened an hour or a day or a week ago, but it is important to talk about the context surrounding today's circumstances, and that is why I wanted to come talk a little bit more about what is happening on our southern border.

Twelve hundred miles of Texas is common border with Mexico, and we are at ground zero when it comes to what comes across the border and what happens at the border. Frankly, it is a lot more complicated than most people seem to appreciate, at least by the way they talk about it.

Not only is the border a source of economic energy for our country, by trade and legitimate travel, we know our border communities themselves are among the safest in the country. Their crime statistics are basically equivalent to that of any other comparable city in any other part of the country, but what happens across the border is a very different story.

Some of the most dangerous cities in Mexico are right there along the border, primarily because they are still controlled by the cartels that operate what are called plazas where they essentially take tolls or shake down people who are trying to come across for whatever purpose it might be, whether it is people coming across to find a job in the United States or drug traffickers or human traffickers—people selling women and children for sex or human servitude.

So it is a complicated scenario, to be sure, but one thing I can tell you is, there is a humanitarian crisis at the

border that was not manufactured by the Trump administration. In fact, the denial in which a lot of our Democratic colleagues find themselves I think is more related to the fact that President Trump is the one currently identifying it rather than the facts on the ground because, in 2014, President Obama called what was happening at the border a humanitarian crisis, and that did not seem to be a controversial comment at the time, but now that President Trump is calling this a crisis and emergency, people, unfortunately, can't take off their partisan jersey, and many call it a fake emergency or fake crisis, which is demonstrably false.

Let's go back to 2014. That year, about 68,000 families were apprehended at the southern border, an overwhelming number. This, coupled with an unprecedented surge of unaccompanied children, led President Obama, as I mentioned, to call this a "growing humanitarian and security crisis." That was President Obama. He was right, especially about the growing part.

Let me just pause for a moment to talk about why are we seeing children and families coming across the border as opposed to adult men.

We detained about 400,000 people coming across the border last year, but we are seeing more and more unaccompanied children and family units coming across the border. The simple fact is, the criminal organizations that exploit this vulnerability at our border have figured out what our laws provide for and where the gaps are, and they realize, if an unaccompanied child or a family unit comes across the border, current law requires us to separate the adult from the child—because we don't want to put a child in a jail or detention facility—and place them, through Health and Human Services, with a sponsor, ultimately, in the United States.

Once they get a sponsor in the United States, then it may be years, if ever, before their asylum claim is actually heard in front of an immigration judge. The fact is, in the vast majority of circumstances, that asylum claim will be granted—or I should say mooted by the fact that people don't show up months and years later for their hearing in front of the immigration judge but simply melt into the great American landscape.

In this case, the cartels win, and American border security loses because our Democratic colleagues simply refuse to work with us to make commonsense fixes to this broken asylum system which allows the cartels and children and family units to essentially exploit the vulnerabilities in our laws and successfully make their way into the country.

That is what they call a pull factor. There are push factors because of the violence occurring in countries in Central America, but the pull factor is the fact that if you try to come to the United States as an unaccompanied