

name only. There was no legislation. As you may have seen, we have done little more than process nominations.

Later this afternoon, we will see what the majority leader plans for next week, but I have a suspicion—just more nominations.

Meanwhile, there is no shortage of legislation we could work on. The House of Representatives has passed no fewer than 100 pieces of legislation. Guess how many of those 100 have received consideration on the floor of the Senate. Zero. Zero of the House-passed bills on legislation.

Commonsense background checks, voting rights, paycheck fairness, defending protections for Americans with preexisting conditions—all bipartisan, all supported by the overwhelming majority of the American public, but in the Senate there is no action—nothing. We have become a conveyor belt for nominations and a graveyard for legislation.

I have said again and again to Leader McConnell that if he doesn't like every aspect of the House Democratic bills, that is fine. That is democracy. Let's debate them. Let's have amendments.

If the leader truly wants to start from scratch, we would love to hear his plan. If he doesn't think we should close loopholes in our background check system, then, what is his plan to reduce gun violence and mass shootings?

He doesn't like the Green New Deal—fine. What is his plan to deal with climate change?

Before Leader McConnell became majority leader, he promised that if he were in charge, he would do things differently in the Senate. He would have open debates, an open amendment process. He would have us vote on the issues of the day, no matter which party the ideas come from.

Eventually, the American people are going to take a hard look at this obstructionist Republican majority of the 116th Congress and wonder what the heck we did with our time. When they realize that the Republican Senate has spent nearly all of its time so far rubberstamping nominees—so many of whom are unqualified and so many of whose views, whether they be judicial or executive appointments, are so far out of the American mainstream and ignoring real legislation that could help middle class families—I wouldn't blame them for wanting to change the leadership of the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

S.J. RES. 7

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, in the United States, American foreign policy is not determined by just one person. The Constitution makes that clear. Article I grants Congress the power to declare war, not the President.

Consistent with that responsibility, Democrats and Republicans in this

body worked together to pass a bipartisan resolution directing the President to end U.S. support for Saudi-led hostilities in Yemen. I am a proud cosponsor of that bill, which passed both Chambers of Congress in recent months.

We made it unmistakably clear that our involvement in Yemen is not authorized by Congress, but the President has chosen to sidestep the bipartisan majority by not signing this bill into law.

In doing so, he is sustaining the crisis through the continuing refueling of Saudi aircraft and other activities.

The American people are not asking the President for this. Taxpayers, certainly, do not want to pay for it.

I serve on the Senate Armed Services Committee, and I can assure you that supporting Saudi Arabia's operations in Yemen is nowhere—nowhere—to be found in our national defense strategy.

I urge my colleagues to reject continued support for Saudi Arabia's military actions in Yemen. Congress must do its job and vote to override the President's veto.

We have an opportunity this week to help make the suffering in Yemen come to an end. Let's not forget that 22 million people in Yemen still need humanitarian assistance or protection. More than 8 million people still go hungry every single day. Sixteen million Yemenis still don't have clean water, resulting in pervasive disease outbreaks. Children are still dying every single day. Every 10 minutes, a child under 5 dies in Yemen from a preventable cause, according to the United Nations.

For many people, their survival is a daily challenge and struggle. Their future hangs, literally, by a thread.

In addition to disease, starvation, and displacement, the people of Yemen are subjected to indiscriminate bombings led by Saudi Arabia.

Let me be clear. Bombs will not resolve this conflict. All parties must come together and work toward a peaceful solution that places the dignity of all Yemeni people at the center of those negotiations, and we can help facilitate that. That is what the American people want.

If you go to Michigan, you can meet with some of the Yemeni Americans who just want the same thing that everybody else does—help for those who are suffering and meaningful steps toward peace.

American diplomacy can help to resolve this tragedy, and we must make every effort to do so.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

REMEMBERING RICHARD LUGAR

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, the country lost one of its elder statesmen this week with the death of former Senator Richard Lugar.

As Members of Congress, one of the most important parts of our job is keeping our Nation secure. We only

hope that when we leave Congress, we will have left our Nation a little safer than when we found it.

Richard Lugar never had to wonder if he had done that. As the Soviet Union was collapsing, Dick stepped forward and shepherded the passage of the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, which supported the dismantling and decommissioning of nuclear weapons in former Soviet countries before the weapons could fall into the hands of terrorists or rogue nations.

As a direct result of his efforts, over the years, thousands of weapons have been destroyed—from warheads to missiles to chemical weapons. Thanks to his work, our Nation and our world are more secure.

Dick's achievements on global security are the kind of legacy most of us can only hope to have, but, of course, that is not all that Dick Lugar did in his Senate career.

As Indiana's longest serving Senator, he also served as a leader on agricultural issues and on food security. Even after he had left the Senate, he continued to advocate for the issues that he cared about as president of the Lugar Center, which, among other things, focuses on global food security and preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Dick will be sorely missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, particularly his wife, Char, and their four sons, Mark, Bob, John, and David.

TAX REFORM

Madam President, over the Easter break, I got to visit a number of South Dakota businesses, like Persona Signs in Madison and Energy Dynamics in Carthage.

Visiting with South Dakotans is the best part of my job, and it is the best way to learn how government policies are affecting South Dakotans and what South Dakotans need from Washington.

One thing that has been wonderful to see over the past year is how tax reform is benefiting South Dakota businesses. Businesses are benefiting directly from things like rate cuts and enhanced expensing, and they are also benefitting from the economic growth that tax reform has helped produce.

I was excited to see that DeGeest Steel Works in Tea, Valley Queen Cheese in Milbank, and Royal Canin pet food in North Sioux City are all in the process of expanding.

Tax reform was a huge step forward in creating an economy where businesses can grow, expand, and create jobs, but there is more work to be done to ensure that South Dakota businesses have all the resources they need to thrive.

One big priority for Republicans is passing the United States-Mexico-Canada free trade agreement, which would help to grow our economy, raise wages, and create 176,000 new jobs. Canada and Mexico are top markets for U.S. agricultural products, and South Dakota

farmers, ranchers, and businesses would all see benefits from the passage of this agreement.

We also want to conclude an agreement with China, which would provide a boost to South Dakota soybean farmers, as well as other South Dakota businesses.

South Dakota farms and businesses depend upon trade, and I am committed to making sure that they have access to the markets they need.

With our thriving economy and low unemployment, finding qualified workers is a challenge for businesses nationwide, but it is particularly a challenge in our State. Unemployment in South Dakota is a remarkably low 2.8 percent—a full percentage point lower than the current measurement for the United States as a whole.

While a low unemployment rate is generally a good thing, it can make it extremely difficult for South Dakota businesses to find the workers they need. That is why I have made expanding the H-2B Visa Program a priority.

Many South Dakota businesses rely on workers who temporarily come to the United States through this program. I was very pleased that the Homeland Security Secretary granted the request of a number of Senators, including myself, to issue additional H-2B visas for 2019. I will continue to encourage the Department of Homeland Security to expedite the release of these visas.

I have also introduced legislation that would expand the number of H-2B visas available for States, including South Dakota, with unemployment rates at or below 3.5 percent.

Another way to ensure businesses have qualified workers is to expand access to career and technical education. Career and technical education programs are key to expanding opportunity for American workers and giving them the skills they need to succeed in the 21st century economy. Last year, Congress passed the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act. This law gives States greater flexibility over career and technical education programs and will help provide better access to training for more than 11 million students and workers.

In addition, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee is currently working on a reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, which will also address career and technical education.

Republicans are committed to continuing to expand opportunity for America's workers. Here in Washington, we can do a lot to help our economy by getting government out of the way, making sure that small and larger businesses aren't weighed down with heavy taxes or excessive regulations, but ultimately it is American business men and women who are the real drivers of growth.

People like the four generations of Meyers, who have worked at A.H.

Meyer & Sons in Winfield, SD, supporting the South Dakota beekeeping industry or the three generations of the DeGeests, who have worked at DeGeest Steel in Tea. The energy, innovation, and commitment displayed by businesses like these is what powers America.

I am grateful to all the businesses who took the time to talk with me and to show me around over the past few weeks and throughout the year. I will continue to fight for those businesses here in Washington, DC, and I look forward to seeing more of the great work that they will continue to do in the future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

S. RES. 120

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam President, I rise to add my name to S. Res. 120. This resolution would make it the sense of the Senate that we in this Chamber oppose the global BDS movement and other efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel.

I have long said that the boycott, divestment, and sanctions movement targeting Israel—the BDS movement—is too often used as a vehicle for anti-Semitism.

The resolution would affirm our commitment to a two-state solution in the Middle East, with a future viable, democratic Palestinian State living side by side with the democratic State of Israel in peace, in security, and with mutual recognition.

It would make clear that particularly in this climate of increased anti-Semitism, we do not agree with efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel. I agree with these principles, and it is why I am supporting this resolution.

I would also like to say this: I have made it clear in the past, and my opinion is no different today, that I will not support any legislation that will weaken Americans' First Amendment rights. In this country, we have a fundamental constitutional right to express our opinions and speak out about what we believe in. We have a right to engage in civil disobedience. We have a right to protest. This resolution recognizes all of that. It recognizes the right of people to protest and express their opinions about whatever country or whatever policy they want, but the Senate is also entitled to our opinion, and I support making it our opinion in this body that we oppose the global BDS movement, that we want a two-state solution, and that we want to stand by our alliance with Israel.

I am proud to stand up for these ideals. I am proud to speak out about them. I encourage all New Yorkers and all Americans all over the country to keep speaking out what they believe in too.

I also want to make a broader and critically important point here; that is, today we cannot ignore the anti-Semitism that is on the rise all around us. It is more important now than ever

that we stand together against all forms of anti-Semitism.

Just this past weekend, a hateful, anti-Semitic White supremacist walked into a synagogue in California on the Sabbath, during a celebration, and horrifically opened fire with a weapon of war on people who were praying—praying—on the last day of Passover. Six months before that, we mourned the tragedy at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, when another hateful, anti-Semitic White supremacist walked into a synagogue on the Sabbath and slaughtered people with another weapon of war.

New Yorkers in my home State have had to endure hateful graffiti with swastikas and even outright physical attacks. The FBI has reported a spike in hate crimes all over our country, so has the Anti-Defamation League.

The ADL just released its annual audit of anti-Semitic incidents. These cases of harassment, vandalism, and assault aren't just happening in one place; they are happening in people's businesses, in their schools, in their cemeteries, in their synagogues, and in our public parks. It was their third highest year on record. They are not just happening in our country either.

In Europe, far-right political parties are winning elected office. We are seeing new attempts to deny the Holocaust. It is all unacceptable. Given the rise of anti-Semitism, it is particularly concerning to me that the U.N. is so focused on continuously and singularly vilifying Israel, in contrast to all other nations. That is why I have taken so many steps so often to call out the U.N.'s unfair actions, and it is why I will continue to call on the U.N. to abstain from its unfair treatment of Israel.

The United States is supposed to be a safe haven for Israel and a safe haven for the Jewish people. It is supposed to be a safe haven for people of all religions. You are supposed to be able to worship freely here and to honor the Sabbath here without coming under attack. We must never let that change. We must not allow bigotry and violence to become normal and routine. We must not look the other way when we hear slurs and witness harassment.

Anti-Semitism is real and dangerous, but it is not going to stop on its own. Only our words and our actions can do that. We need to show the world that we are more united than ever to fight against anti-Semitism and against all other forms of racism and bigotry. We need to send a powerful message of solidarity by standing with the Jewish community, praying with them, and helping assure them that in this dark moment, they are not alone.

Let me end with this. I take my faith very seriously. It grounds me. I am grateful that I have the opportunity to attend Bible studies with my colleagues in the Senate and that I can attend a weekly Prayer Breakfast. I believe we are here now, at this moment, for a reason. We are all called to end