

Later, we will turn to the consideration of David Schenker, of New Jersey, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs; Heath Tarbert, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission; Susan Combs, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior; and three nominees to preside in a district court and the Court of Federal Claims.

In each case, the President has put forward impressive and uncontroversial individuals who, I might add, in a previous era, would have been candidates for a voice vote. They are thoroughly qualified for public service. Their nominations should not have been delayed even this long.

In the case of Mr. Schenker, for example, our colleagues have forced the top Middle East job at the State Department to remain open for 1 year. This is the top job at the State Department for the Middle East, and they have kept it open for 1 year—a year that brought no shortage of crises in that region.

So I am glad we are continuing to get things back on track. I hope our colleagues will join me in voting to put each of these public servants to work for the American people.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

Madam President, on another matter, today, June 4, 2019, marks a historic anniversary for the U.S. Senate. It was 100 years ago today that this body passed the 19th Amendment to the Constitution and sent it on to the States for ratification. It was 100 years ago today that this institution finally recognized that American women deserved the right to vote just the same as men.

Of course, this victory for equality and fairness had been a long time in the making. The very same text that would become the 19th Amendment was first introduced in the Senate more than 40 years before, back in 1878. It was 40 years between the first introduction and the final passage. It was introduced by Senator Aaron Sargent of California, who, with his wife, was a close friend of Susan B. Anthony's. When it finally received a vote nearly a decade later, there were twice as many votes against it as for it. By 1914, there had been progress. When it received another vote that year, it failed by only 11 votes. By February 1919, there was more progress, losing by just one vote. The old justifications were eroding. Our Nation's true principles and clear logic were chipping away at this old mistake.

Then, precisely one century ago today, the right thing to do became undeniable. Women's suffrage cleared the Senate floor. The rollcall vote was 56 to 25—2 more than two-thirds. Newspaper accounts tell us that several minutes of sustained applause and cheers filled the Gallery. Then the 39 words that would become the 19th Amendment were on their way to the States, on their way to concluding a 42-

year journey and becoming enshrined in our Constitution.

Of course, this chapter of Senate history is just a tiny slice of the incredible uphill battle that the broader women's rights and suffrage movement waged in American politics and in culture. There were the pioneering thinkers of the Seneca Falls Convention, such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, and their famous Declaration of Sentiments. There was the incredible, history-changing intellectual and strategic partnership between Stanton and Susan B. Anthony and the prolific writing, coalition-building, and grassroots activism it produced.

There were devoted organizers, such as Carrie Chapman Catt, Ida B. Wells, and Mary Church Terrell, and so many more—both the dynamic leaders whom history remembers and the millions more women and men who lent their support to the cause and who made quiet contributions of their own.

Some of them lived to see the fruits of their work become part of our Constitution, and many did not, but the progress we celebrate would not have been possible—it would have been literally unimaginable—without them.

So this milestone brought one chapter of hard work to an end, but it really started a new chapter in our history as American women became more and more integrated into our democracy. It was just 6 years after the 19th Amendment was ratified that my own State of Kentucky elected our first female Member of Congress, Katherine Langley, to the House of Representatives.

I could not be more glad that the Senate will spend today commemorating this historic milestone. This afternoon, I know a number of our colleagues plan to come to the floor to describe the history and significance of this day in much more depth. Later, we will vote on a resolution to officially mark the centennial of our predecessors' historic vote.

Several more Senators have been working on additional legislation to help our Nation mark the whole year of commemoration that begins this spring and will continue through the anniversary of final ratification.

I want to thank a number of our colleagues who helped lead the preparation for this. In particular, thanks to Senator COLLINS for her leadership in coordinating today and focusing the Senate's attention on this milestone. Thanks to Senator MURKOWSKI, the lead sponsor for the resolution we will be voting on this afternoon. Thanks to our colleagues Senators BLACKBURN, FEINSTEIN, ERNST, and others for their hard work.

I would also like to thank the members of the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission, led by Chairwoman Kay Coles James and former Senator Barbara Mikulski, the Vice Chair, and their staff, including executive director Rebecca Kleefisch and Anna Laymon.

Madam President, 100 years ago today, American women's right to vote

was up for debate in this Chamber for the last time. As one Member of this body remarked on June 4, 1919, "The advocates of the Susan B. Anthony amendment have won a great victory and are justly entitled to all the praise and honor which comes with the winning of a battle which has been fought for so long a time . . . the right of suffrage [for] those noble, patriotic, and splendid women of our country who have so long fought for this right and who so richly deserve [it]."

Today we reflect on our gratitude for that work, and we rejoice in that victory.

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. Madam 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.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, too much of our conversation about migrants seeking to enter at the southern border has to do with what happens when they get here. Not enough of our conversation concerns how we deal with the problems in the countries from which the migrants are coming. Many of these migrants are fleeing vicious gang violence, corruption, domestic abuse, drug cartels, and economic hardships that are so severe that they would risk a journey of 1,000 miles on foot rather than to stay where they are.

We simply have to do more to help the countries from which these folks are coming to fix the problems that are causing their people to flee. That is getting at the root causes here, not at just putting on a bandaid after they get to the border, and that may be the most effective way to deal with the overall issue. Unfortunately and as usual, the Trump administration has done the opposite. Its policies are exacerbating the vicious conditions in these Central American countries.

President Trump has cut \$450 million in security assistance to Central American countries and has provided no information about why the cuts have taken place and where the money will go. As usual, it seems it is sort of on a whim. He gets this idea in his head and spews it out without checking it and without explaining it even when it has the consequence he doesn't want, which is more people coming to our southern border.

Now what the President has proposed are tariffs on Mexico that would be massively destabilizing to our economy and theirs—a policy that will only lead to more migration. These whimsical and erratic proposals by the President that seem to pop into his head and with which he goes forward without

checking are making a mess of what is going on at the southern border.

So I would say to the President: There is a much better way to address the migration issue than with tariffs. Deal with the problems in the Central American countries that are causing the migration in the first place.

The Democrats have proposed legislation that would do just that—stem the tide of migrants and help to reduce the backlog of cases. How?

First, allow asylum seekers to apply for asylum in their home countries. If the people under all of this gang violence and viciousness and economic hardship would be able to apply for asylum in Honduras or in Guatemala or in El Salvador instead of having to take a dangerous and often expensive 1,000-mile trek, they would do it. Why don't we do that? Let's increase the number of immigration judges so there could be adjudication rather quickly, and let's build the capacity of Central American countries to crack down on the violent gangs and vicious drug cartels.

Our bill would provide \$1.5 billion in security assistance to these countries, which is far more than the Trump administration has cut, but it is still nonsensical to have cut this money. This administration gets in its own way almost every day, but the solutions we proposed are the types we should debate.

So we are going to push forward with these proposals. Democrats will seek to add these policies to any package of border legislation that comes here before the Senate. If no legislation dealing with the border comes up, Democrats will seek to add security assistance for Central American countries to an appropriations bill and push for language that requires the administration to use it. This is so important that we will push hard in whatever vehicle we can find to move this proposal.

Again, all of these policies would have a far greater impact, with far less disruption, than slapping tariffs on one of our Nation's largest trading partners.

Now, frankly, I don't believe President Trump will actually go through with the tariffs. When he doesn't, we should be ready to proceed to these commonsense policies instead.

President Trump has a habit of talking tough and then retreating because his tough talk can't be implemented or doesn't make sense. President Trump has a habit of proposing asinine and dangerous policies before backing off, and President Trump has a habit of pretending that the very act of not following through on a misguided policy is somehow a victory. I wouldn't be surprised at all if President Trump didn't follow through on these tariffs either.

We Democrats have proposed a much better solution to the problems the President is talking about, and when the President backs off on tariffs, as I believe he will, this is a solution ready

to go that can get bipartisan support that can actually stem the problems we have at our southern border.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

Madam President, next, on the 19th Amendment anniversary, today we observe the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment by the U.S. Senate—a critical step in the long march for equality that began at the very founding of our country, when Abigail Adams implored her husband to “remember the ladies” when drafting the Constitution, a reminder that fell on deaf ears. It was a march that gathered numbers and force at Seneca Falls, under the leadership of brave New Yorkers like Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and found expression in the abolitionist movement.

While that march for equality under the law achieved a great and long-overdue victory 100 years ago, it is still not over. We have a lot to do. Wearing the yellow rose is wonderful, but it is not enough.

When women in the workplace do 100 percent of the work but only earn 80 percent of the pay as a man in the same position, the march is not over.

When good legislation like the House-passed Violence Against Women Act to provide justice to survivors of domestic violence and stalking languishes in this Chamber in a legislative graveyard because the NRA is opposed to it, that march is not over.

When the States are passing laws making it harder for minorities to vote, when State parties gerrymander districts to limit minority representation, and when the Supreme Court pretends that discrimination no longer exists in this country and guts the Voting Rights Act, the march to equality and universal suffrage is not over.

Without universal suffrage, democracy is incomplete. That was the lesson of the women who organized, protested, and compelled their government to pass the 19th Amendment by the slimmest of margins. So let us not consider June 4 a day to look back with complacency and remark on our historical progress, but rather as a day to look forward and recognize what we still must achieve.

There is no shortage of good work we could take up here in the Senate—pay-check fairness, Violence Against Women Act, the Equality Act, voting rights, election reform—to make sure all Americans can enjoy the full blessings of liberty. These pieces of legislation have passed the House and ended up in the legislative graveyard of the Senate. I can think of no better way to honor the legacy of the suffragists than to continue their work on breaking down barriers and strengthening our democracy.

#### ELECTION SECURITY

Madam President, finally, on election security, today's anniversary should also be a reminder of how precious our elections are and how we must guarantee that they continue to be fair and to be free.

Last week, Mr. Mueller reminded us once again that Russia conducted a

malign campaign to interfere in our 2016 elections. Director Wray and our intelligence community leaders have issued clear and unambiguous warnings that foreign powers will try to do it again in 2020.

The Senate must act on this. How can we sit by idly with our arms folded complacently while foreign countries try to interfere with our democracy—our beautiful, wonderful democracy?

We have bipartisan legislation ready right now to harden our election infrastructure and to hold foreign powers accountable for trying to meddle in our elections, but so far, much to our dismay—much to the Nation's dismay—Leader MCCONNELL has not indicated any openness to have this body consider it.

As frustrating as that is, we have made progress on my request for an all-Senators briefing on the threats of election meddling. We should hear from our leaders of the FBI and Homeland Security about the upcoming threats. Director Wray has already said something publicly about this.

Now, the good news here is that I spoke to the Republican leader, Leader MCCONNELL, and he has agreed to hold such an all-Senators briefing. We haven't gotten a date yet. I urge him to hold it as soon as possible, and certainly it should take place during this work period. This briefing should only be the beginning—the beginning only—of a larger conversation about the steps we must take to secure our elections.

Ladies and gentlemen, Democrats and Republicans, Americans, this is not optional. There aren't two sides to this issue. Our democracy was attacked, and we—both Democrats and Republicans—must take steps to prevent an attack in the future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, before I begin, I would like to take just a second to mention the resolution the Senate will be passing this week celebrating the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment.

This was a landmark moment in the history of freedom in our country—a major step forward in realizing America's promise of liberty. It is an important moment to celebrate, and I look forward to voting for this resolution this week and honoring all the women whose courage resulted in the 19th Amendment's passage.

#### STREAMLINE ACT

Madam President, just a few years ago, a lot of our current technology would have been unthinkable—watching a football game on your phone, using an app to see who is ringing the doorbell at your house while you are across town at work, ordering groceries using your computer, or, with voice-activated technologies like Alexa, putting groceries in your online cart without even having to click a button.