

need to be talked about, and I know Senator PORTMAN just brought that up with his chart, but I thank him for his participation.

Senator GRASSLEY, who is a very valued member of the Ag Committee, chairman of the Finance Committee—and obviously that is the committee of jurisdiction—who has especially pointed out, and as Senator ERNST has pointed out, the value of agriculture to Iowa and, for that matter, all of the country.

Senator BOOZMAN, who talked about Arkansas, is a valued member of the committee as well, next to the chair in terms of seniority.

Senator PORTMAN, as has been pointed out, is the former Trade Representative. On the chart, he simply pointed out in detail why this new agreement is far superior to NAFTA and we are working with, as Senator GRASSLEY pointed out, working groups in the House, with our lead negotiator, and I hope that works out. I certainly hope it works out.

Senator ERNST has been an outstanding champion for farmers in Iowa and all around the country. She is on the committee and has compassion and also pointed out the need for certainty.

Now, since NAFTA was signed into law, the result has been that Canada and Mexico have been two of our strongest trading partners.

I worked on NAFTA back in the day when I was in the House and served as ranking member, and the Honorable Kika de la Garza was the chairman. We went all over the country working on NAFTA.

The result with that agreement—and every State could say the same thing, but we are talking about 110,000 jobs in Kansas. Those jobs are across all sectors of agriculture now, and many are tied to agriculture and the entire agriculture value chain. NAFTA secured greater market access for our farmers, our ranchers, our growers, everybody in between, and for our producers. Today, over one-quarter of our country's agriculture exports are destined for Canada and/or Mexico.

As with every trade agreement, there is always room for improvement. It has been pointed out by all of my colleagues that the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement—the acronym for that is USMCA. I did suggest it could also be for United States Marine Corps Always, but that is the acronym we are using. It has modernized the trade pact we have benefited from for over 20 years. The U.S. agriculture industry desperately needs this trade agreement now to offer greater certainty and predictability regarding demand in the marketplace, certainly in predictability.

That is what we promised in the farm bill, and we passed the farm bill in this body with 87 votes. That is a record vote, based on the premise that the most important thing we do is provide certainty and predictability for our farmers and ranchers and growers.

As chairman of the Senate Ag Committee, I have heard directly, personally, as all my colleagues have, from producers and the broader agriculture industry regarding our challenging farm economy.

Every day our farmers, ranchers, and growers experience incredible challenges, including weather variability, and that is putting it mildly. I do not know what we have done to Mother Nature for her to act in this fashion.

In Kansas, the wheat harvest is a month late, and farmers still can't get in their fields up in the northwest part, but, amazingly, the yield is pretty good; the protein is staying about the same; and we have seen a little bit—a little bit—of price recovery. We need a lot more.

The uncertainty regarding the U.S. trade policy has led some of our most important trading partners to turn to our competitors. That is sadly true. At a time when the U.S. agriculture industry is facing new trade retaliation threats on top of the challenging agriculture economy, we must offer greater certainty and predictability for the farmers and ranchers across the country.

I cannot emphasize enough how serious this is. This is the fourth or fifth year that we have experienced this situation. Some farmers and ranchers who produce—not all but some—are in a desperate situation.

Congressional passage of USMCA would be—will be—should be—a pivotal step toward restoring the United States as a reliable supplier, not to mention tangible benefits.

I urge my colleagues—especially in the House—to get together with Ambassador Lighthizer and work out these concerns that have been talked about—especially by Senator GRASSLEY—and to give fair and swift consideration to this new trade agreement. We must expand critical market access and create new trade opportunities for U.S. agriculture.

I again thank Senator HOEVEN for his leadership and for sponsoring this colloquy.

Mr. HOEVEN. I thank the Senator from Kansas and our Agriculture Committee chairman.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent for up to an additional 3 minutes of time to allow the Senator from Colorado to make a few remarks, and then we would turn to the Senator from Vermont for his comments.

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

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I turn to the Senator from Colorado.

Mr. GARDNER. Madam President, I thank our colleague from Vermont for the accommodation of this extra time.

USMCA is incredibly important to the State of Colorado. Colorado is a pro-trade State. We have about 750,000 trade-related jobs in Colorado. Of those 750,000 jobs, almost 250,000 are related to trade with Mexico and Canada. Nearly a quarter million of Colorado's

workers are there because of trade with Canada and Mexico. It is a nearly \$5 billion share of our economy—that is, the total number of goods, services, and exports to Canada and Mexico. That was a couple of years ago, so that number has obviously increased.

Of the potatoes Mexico imports from the United States, nearly half come from Colorado. If you look at beverages, 97 percent of the beverages Mexico imports come from Colorado. If you look at crowns, closures, seals, 96 percent of those items exported or imported by Mexico come from Colorado. If you look at miscellaneous leather products, the hides and other products that Mexico imports, 87 percent of them come from Colorado.

We know NAFTA has created thousands of jobs in Colorado. We know it has added thousands of dollars to people's incomes. We know USMCA is a better, stronger opportunity for us to gain even more jobs, more income, and more opportunity for the people of Colorado. So I thank Senator HOEVEN for bringing people together on the floor to talk about the importance of free trade and particularly the passage of USMCA.

I hope our colleagues in the House will hear this call to a brighter economic future, more trade opportunities, and greater U.S. leadership by moving the USMCA, adopting it, and putting it forward so the Senate can act on it and getting this agreement into law so we can actually once again start rebuilding opportunities with trade.

I am strongly supportive of this effort. It is good for Colorado, and it is good for this country.

I thank my colleague from North Dakota and my colleague from Vermont.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I thank the Senator from Colorado. Again, the message is clear: We need to pass USMCA, and we urge our colleagues not only in this Chamber but in the House to do that and get this done for our country, across all sectors of our economy.

With that, I turn to the Senator from Vermont and express my thanks and appreciation to him.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

DEATH OF JAMAL KHASHOGGI

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary killings, Ms. Agnes Callamard, recently released her report on the murder of Jamal Khashoggi after a 6-month investigation. I encourage everyone to read the report, and I want to share several of her findings.

First, Mr. Khashoggi was murdered and dismembered inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. It was an extrajudicial killing that violated numerous international laws, and for which the Government of Saudi Arabia is responsible.

Second, there is credible evidence warranting further investigation of the

liability of high-level Saudi officials, especially the Crown Prince.

Third, once Turkey publicly announced Mr. Khashoggi's murder, the Saudi Government used consular immunity to obstruct Turkey's investigation until the crime scene could be cleaned, and there are reasons to conclude that the destruction of evidence could not have taken place without the Crown Prince's knowledge.

Fourth, Saudi officials falsely denied knowledge of Mr. Khashoggi's murder for more than 2 weeks, and they continue to deny state responsibility.

Fifth, the trial of the suspects who have been charged in Saudi Arabia will not deliver justice or the whole truth.

Sixth, Jamal Khashoggi's remains have yet to be located and turned over to his family.

Some have ignored the findings in the report, as the lobbyists who continue to rake in millions of dollars from the Saudi Government have encouraged, and as the Trump administration appears inclined to do. But ignoring the facts doesn't change what happened. And it bears repeating: The fact is, a journalist was murdered by the Saudi Government in a manner that implicates officials at the highest level in the royal family. The fact is, the Saudi Government engaged in a flagrant coverup and continues to deny any responsibility. The fact is, the steps being taken to pursue justice are a sham.

After the report was released, the Saudi Foreign Minister dismissed its finding as not containing any new information—as if the murder, coverup, and lack of accountability are irrelevant because they have been previously reported.

While many of the summary findings in the report may not be new, they are supported by roughly 100 pages of detailed information in which the Special Rapporteur and her team document official reports from the U.S., Saudi, and Turkish Governments, they include quotes from interviews conducted around the world, and they share excerpts of the gruesome intelligence information to which they had access.

Ms. Callamard presented the facts, her own conclusions, and the methodology used to reach those conclusions, and she was clear about where there were limitations of her inquiry. The report shows a meticulous and objective effort to find the truth. For that reason, it stands in stark contrast to the approach taken by both the Saudi Government and the Trump administration.

The Special Rapporteur also made several recommendations, including some that are directed specifically to the United States. They include the following:

Open an FBI investigation into the murder of Mr. Khashoggi, and pursue criminal prosecutions within the United States as appropriate.

Make a determination under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Ac-

countability Act regarding the responsibility of the Crown Prince, the de facto ruler of Saudi Arabia.

To the greatest extent possible, consistent with national security, declassify materials relating to the murder of Mr. Khashoggi.

And hold congressional hearings on the responsibility of top Saudi officials and demand access to the relevant classified materials.

After Ms. Callamard's report was released, President Trump, just like the Saudi Foreign Minister, dismissed its findings. He made clear he intends to take no action in response to the report.

In addition, despite Secretary Pompeo's repeated claim that the administration is "committed to holding each individual accountable" in the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, the facts indicate the opposite. The administration continues to refuse to adhere to its legal requirements—refuses to follow the law—under the Magnitsky Act to determine liability in the murder, including the liability of the Crown Prince.

In fact, President Trump has made no effort to conceal that the administration's complicity in protecting the Saudi royal family is linked to billions of dollars in sales of U.S. weapons to the Saudi Government. During an interview shortly after the report was released, the President admitted to not raising the U.N. report with the Crown Prince, and said: "Saudi Arabia's a big buyer of American products; that means something to me."

Asked whether Saudi Arabia paid the right price for the United States "to look the other way," President Trump said: "No, no. But I'm not like a fool that says, 'We don't want to do business with them . . . Take their money.'"

I was a prosecutor for 8 years. The fact that premeditated murder is being condoned because of billions of dollars in Saudi money is unconscionable.

According to President Trump, our relations with Saudi Arabia should not change regardless of the outcome of any investigation. Think about that. The President is saying that no matter what the evidence shows, no matter how compelling the evidence implicating the Crown Prince in murder and obstruction of justice, that should not affect our relations with the Saudi Government. That is a shocking statement.

Instead, the administration has limited its response to imposing sanctions only against individuals who reportedly carried out the murder, as well as a few other officials believed to have played a role in ordering or facilitating the operation, and has argued that, by doing so, it has fulfilled its commitment to pursuing justice.

It is the same as what the Saudi Government has done—claim to be holding the hit men accountable while absolving the Saudi leadership and royal family of any responsibility.

Yet the Special Rapporteur has rightly emphasized that the pursuit of justice for Jamal Khashoggi and his family is about finding the truth.

Secretary Pompeo recently spoke about the need to ensure that our principles guide our policy. That is a view I share, but I have to wonder what he meant by that pious statement. What principles was he talking about? There is no evidence that the administration is being guided by principle in the Khashoggi case. To the contrary, there is every reason to believe this administration has made a calculated decision to do the opposite. In fact, the President has said as much.

There should be nothing controversial about holding accountable a government that systemically represses and abuses its own people, that is currently arbitrarily detaining American citizens whom it has also reportedly tortured, that has repeatedly committed war crimes in Yemen that potentially implicate the United States, and that is responsible for the premeditated murder of a widely respected journalist.

I hope other Senators will join me in calling on the Trump administration to lead the international community by example. Our government should put Special Rapporteur Callamard's recommendations into practice, and we should urge other governments to do the same.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to be able to complete my remarks before the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRADE

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, a number of my colleagues were here just a few moments ago talking about trade and the impact of trade on agriculture. I have been down here a lot on the floor to talk about the ag economy in recent weeks. If you look at our economy as a whole, it is thriving, but our Nation's farmers and ranchers are still having a tough time, thanks to years of commodity and livestock prices that are below production cost because of protracted trade disputes and now, on top of that, natural disasters.

One of the most important things we can do to help our agricultural economy is to negotiate favorable trade agreements for U.S. producers. Our Nation's farmers and ranchers depend on trade. In my home State of South Dakota, we export a substantial portion of the agricultural products we produce.

Right now, though, farmers and ranchers are facing a lot of uncertainty when it comes to trade. There are a number of outstanding trade agreements, and farmers and ranchers are unsure what the rules of the road are going to look like in the future. That is why I have urged the administration to