

of aircraft that we are in. We are not flying in some fancy leased jet. We are in a small aircraft, what we call a bush carrier. That is when we have airstrips that we can land on.

But we don't have airstrips in many of our communities. What we do is we come in and out on the water on our floatplanes. Some people call them seaplanes out here. We call them floatplanes.

Here is a picture of me and Secretary Perry on Kodiak Island. We had flown over on Alaska Airlines. But to get around the island, you either take a boat or fly in a floatplane. We were flying over to Old Harbor there on Kodiak Island, but we got around on the water.

Sometimes you don't have the water though. In a place like Alaska, what we do have in the wintertime is a fair amount of snow. You take your floats off and you put your skis on. You can see the wheels there. This plane can land in Anchorage and take off in Anchorage on the wheels, but when you are up on Ruth Glacier, as this Cessna 185 is, you are landing on skis. That gets your attention because it is a little bit different than a floatplane, but it gets you in and out of what you need to get in and out of.

There are some places, though, where you don't have an airstrip, a floatplane can't land, and the only way to really get in and out is by helicopter.

Little Diomed Island sits out in the middle of the Bering Straits. It is 2 miles from Big Diomed. Big Diomed is owned by Russia. Little Diomed is owned by us. There are about 150-plus people who live out there on Diomed. They have a school, and they have a community center, but how do they get the mail? People move in and out by helicopter. The mail is delivered by helicopter. There are a few weeks in the wintertime—maybe, sometimes, as much as a couple of months—when the ocean freezes over and they can make a strip where a plane can land on the ice. But most of the year, you fly in and out on helicopter. So we fly.

The other way we get around when we don't have a lot of roads is on our rivers. One thing that Alaska is blessed with is a lot of rivers. We have 365,000 miles of rivers. That makes for a lot of roads because in the summertime, those rivers are our roads.

This is a picture upriver in the village of Napaskiak. There are about 500 people there. We had Attorney General Barr with us in May. We took him upriver. This is how he traveled. These are the Bethel Search and Rescue boats there. They are not fancy boats. They are not yachts. These are functional. They have decent motors on them because these are workhorses. Yet how we travel in the summer is up and down these rivers.

In the summer, it makes it possible to move around these communities. In the winter, you move around by snow machine. You have trucks and you have vehicles out there as well. When the rivers freeze, you then have your

frozen highway, and you can have 100 miles of it. The Kuskokwim, I think, plowed out 250 miles of road on the river.

This is a frozen river. This is actually a picture that was taken when we took Secretary Moniz from Bethel to Oscarville. We had with us about four other Members of the Senate because we had a field hearing for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. We held it out there in Oscarville, and we had a motorcade on ice. It was basically about six trucks that went down the river, but the Secretary said it was his first official truck motorcade on ice. That really does allow us to get around when the rivers are frozen over.

Down in the southeastern part of the State, where I was born and spent a lot of my growing-up years, they are all islanded communities. There are 32 or 33 islanded communities in the southeast. So to move around, we either fly Alaska Airlines, fly smaller carriers, or we rely on our Alaska marine highway system, our ferry system. This is our marine lifeline. This is how we move freight, how we move vehicles, how we move goods, and how we move people.

Right now, our very system is threatened on a host of different levels, which really hurts my heart because, as one who knows how dependent we are on being able to move on the water, this is our road, and these types of vessels can move us in ways that are efficient. The marine highway system is our road. So we are working in the State right now to address it. Again, this is one more way that I do my road trips when I am back home in the State.

In the interior, you have communities, again, that are isolated. There is no road system that gets you there. There are small villages, Arctic villages, that are about 500 people strong.

I was in an Arctic village just in July, and this is how I was picked up at the airport. There are not many trucks. There are basically four-wheelers. There are ATVs, and everybody just hops on. This was my driver for the day. Again, you just hop on the back and ride.

Then, there are some communities in which, really, the way that you get around is not on a road and not on a sidewalk but on just a wooden trail, a wooden boardwalk. This is the village of Napaskiak. This is out in the Bethel region, in the Y-K Delta. These are just planks that are put down on top of the tundra because the area is so marshy that you cannot walk on it. You would need hip waders to be better able to travel through it. Just walking around on the boardwalk is the extent of your road trip in a place like Nunam Iqua or Napaskiak.

Whether it is freedom to be on a frozen river or freedom to be out on the Arctic Ocean, wintertime gives us a little bit more freedom. This is a picture of me with a friend, off of Utqiagvik, which is on the Arctic Ocean. It looks like a lot of fun. We were going out

snow-machining. We were going out to work because the community had harvested a whale, and the whaling crew and the community were taking their snow machines out to load the muktuk onto sleds to haul back to the community so it could be shared as part of their subsistence food. So we were going out to help the community harvest that whale. This is not fun and recreation. It is your means of transportation. This is your workhorse.

We do have a little bit of fun every now and again. Everyone asks: Do you ever travel around by dog sled? That is my dream. That would be the next career opportunity for me. I would love to run the Iditarod, and I would love to have my own dog team, but, right now, I don't have enough hours in my day. Yet, every now and again, you can hop on the back of a dog sled.

I am looking forward to being back home and traveling around the State, visiting from Ketchikan to Barrow. It is 4,000 miles for Senator SULLIVAN, Congressman YOUNG, and me to get back and forth between Washington, DC, and Alaska. I have kind of mapped out my trip for the month ahead. Once I get back to Alaska, in that first couple of weeks, I will have doubled that airtime, if you will. Then, with the additional travel that we have toward the end of August, I am looking at about 15,000 miles of travel within my State.

I know many of my colleagues are going to exotic locations that will take them to places that will be a long, long ways away. Yet I am just reminded every day of the privilege and the honor of being able to travel through an extraordinary State like Alaska, where we use a little bit of everything to get us to where we need to go in order to visit some of the finest Americans whom I know and am blessed to be able to serve.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

OKLAHOMA

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, August is coming quickly. It is the time that we have a gap in the legislative calendar. As this body knows well, Congress is in session for 11 months of the year. We have one month in which we are not in Washington, DC, which gives us the opportunity to be home and to, quite frankly, catch up with family but also to be able to travel around our States, see what is going on in our States, and talk to folks.

I happen to live in an unbelievably beautiful State. In August, Oklahoma is crazy hot and humid, but it is a great time to get a chance to see people and to see what is going on.

In just the few weeks around this time period, I have already been to Ada and Durant and Calera, and I will be heading quickly to Chickasha, Lindsay, Lawton, Vinita, Miami—that is not "Miami—ee"; the correct pronunciation is "Miami—ah"—Afton, Grove, Jay, Chelsea, Hennessey, Enid, up to Kaw Lake, and, of course, all around the

Oklahoma City area and all around Tulsa, to spend as much time as I can with as many different people as I can to find out what is going on in Oklahoma. I get this one precious month a year to make sure I have focus time in the State to see as many people as I can.

I got to thinking about this and the privilege that I have really had in being able to travel around my State and see so many people and so many places, to get on Route 66, travel the State from east to west, and see exactly what is going on.

I have had the opportunity to be out at the E.W. Marland Mansion in Ponca City. I have had the opportunity to be at Roman Nose State Park in Watonga. I have climbed up to the top of Black Mesa in Kenton, and I have been to the lowest point, by sea level, in far southeast Oklahoma in Broken Bow. I have been out to Mount Scott in Lawton and have climbed on its tumbled rocks. I have been to the Blue Whale in Catoosa.

I have had the great privilege of getting a chance to walk around through the Gathering Place in Tulsa. This is an absolutely spectacular park and gathering place. In fact, USA Today just named it the No. 1 new attraction in America. For folks who have not been to Tulsa or for the folks who have been to Tulsa before, they need to go back and just enjoy the Gathering Place.

I have had the opportunity to walk the streets around Black Wall Street and to visit with the fine folks who are there. I have had the opportunity to be in Davis at Turner Falls and the Arbuckle Mountains, and, of course, Falls Creek. I have had the opportunity to be in Hochatown, which is down near Broken Bow Lake, and the chance just to enjoy the time there, around the tall trees, in beautiful southeast Oklahoma. I have had the opportunity to visit Lake Murray State Park in Ardmore and visit the Ole Red restaurant in Tishomingo. I have driven the Talimena National Scenic Byway in the fall and have seen the spectacular scenery in those mountains. I have been to the Robbers Cave in Wilburton and the Ouachita National Forest in McCurtain County.

I have had the opportunity to walk around through the Heavener Runestone area and see the Norse Viking carved stones that are there in eastern Oklahoma. I could see, most definitely, by far, amongst those high trees and those rolling hills, that I wasn't the first person to go there.

I have been to the Round Barn, off Route 66 in Arcadia. I have stopped to get a great hamburger at Pop's, which is there on Route 66. I have quietly stood at the national Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial in downtown Oklahoma City, and I have seen the amazing western art at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. I have walked through the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame and the Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

You can't go through Oklahoma without stopping at Cattlemen's Steakhouse and enjoying a great steak or without driving out west to see the Stafford Air & Space Museum. People who travel to Washington, DC, go to the Air and Space Museum, and I will often smile at them and say: Do not miss the Air & Space Museum that is in Weatherford, OK, because the Stafford Air & Space Museum has a remarkable collection from a fantastic Oklahoma astronaut.

The Great Salt Plains in Jet and the Oklahoma Territorial Museum in Guthrie are also really remarkable places.

I do have to brag about a spot because, on my 50th birthday, my wife surprised me by our taking a trip to the Little Sahara State Park and the sand dunes in northern Oklahoma. We rented dune buggies and drove them as hard and fast as we wanted on that day. It was a great day to just enjoy Oklahoma. It was just like the day I was able to drive to Pawhuska and eat at the Pioneer Woman Mercantile restaurant and just enjoy the downtown area.

It is really a fantastic State, and the people and the places that I miss while I am here in Washington, DC, for 11 months of the year I look forward to getting a chance to see when I get back home in August. With as much work as we have to get done here—and we still have a lot of work to get done—we will spend some time on the phone, we will walk through legislation, and we will continue to do writing. Yet, thankfully, I will be able to write and spend time on the phone while I look out my windshield and enjoy some Oklahoma scenery at the same time.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, pursuant to yesterday's authority, the Senate will now vote on the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 48, 55, and 351.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report Calendar No. 48.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Karin J. Immergut, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Immergut nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I oppose the confirmation of U.S. District Court nominee Karin Immergut. She went through the committee confirmation process in 2018, before I joined the Senate Judiciary Committee, and subsequently, she was part of a package of judges who were renominated and voted out earlier this year. I later learned that the nominee had issued a questionable abortion opinion and is pro-choice.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report Calendar No. 55.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John Milton Younge, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Younge nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report Calendar No. 351.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Mary M. Rowland, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Rowland nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, at 3 p.m. today, the Senate will vote on confirmations of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 205, 231, 232, 345, 350, 364, and 402.

I ask unanimous consent that if the nominations are confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Executive Calendar No. 205 is the pending question.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Pittman nomination?

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.