

next Secretary of Labor—another group of talented professionals put to work for the American people and more of the President's team in place.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this week, we will also address our responsibility to keep the Federal Government funded.

The Republicans regret that our Democratic colleagues have chosen to back away from the agreement we all reached just last month to ensure a smooth, bipartisan funding process. We regret that the Democrats chose to block funding for the national defense, including a pay raise for our men and women in uniform, in order to pick a partisan fight with the White House.

Yet, for the sake of the country, our near-term priority is that of passing a continuing resolution so the government can stay open while work continues. I am glad the continuing resolution on the table earned significant bipartisan support across the Capitol and has also earned the green light from the White House. The Senate will vote on it this week. As Chairman SHELBY and Senator LEAHY continue their work on regular order appropriations, I hope the cooperation that has surrounded this CR can carry over and that we can get the appropriations process back on track.

THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on yet another matter, the productive, bipartisan work that needs to happen in the Senate will stand in stark contrast to the choices made by the House Democrats across the Capitol.

Over there, it seems as though a far-left socialist ideology is increasingly becoming mainstream Democratic Party doctrine, and rather than roll up their sleeves and work with the Republicans and with the White House on proposals that could actually become law, the House continues to promote one dangerous leftwing policy after another.

The Senate has already voted on the Green New Deal, the Democrats' socialist wish list that seeks to outlaw affordable energy and transportation, eliminate the jobs many Americans rely on, and even empower government bureaucrats to redesign families' homes. Needless to say, it didn't do too well. Here in the real world, out of the college campus atmosphere that seems to characterize the House Democrats, the Senate voted it down. I have already discussed the recent House-passed bill that would have cut down on our domestic energy and American energy independence.

We also all know about Medicare for None, which is the plan the Democrats' Presidential candidates are rushing to embrace, that would literally outlaw the existing health insurance 180 mil-

lion Americans currently get on the job and throw everyone into an untested, one-size-fits-all government plan.

Just last week, Speaker PELOSI expanded on the Democrats' Medicare for None philosophy by introducing a bill to micromanage Americans' medicine and start trying to have Washington, DC, run the prescription drug industry because, if there is anything that has been proven to increase competition and affordability for American families, it is huge, new doses of heavy-handed Washington, DC, interference.

No, we will not let the Democrats take us down the path that embraces the socialist concept of starting to nationalize an industry with people devoted to finding cures and saving lives. The life sciences sector is driving the search for cures to Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, and countless other diseases that impact millions of Americans.

The Speaker and her caucus may be content to spend their majority passing leftwing messaging bills, but in this Senate, we take the American people's priorities more seriously, and we will stick to getting their business done.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Joseph Cella, of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Fiji, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, and Tuvalu.

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

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

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, in just a few days, we will mark the 1-year anniversary of the President's concluding negotiations on the United States-Mexico-Canada Free Trade Agreement. It is time for Congress to ratify this agreement now.

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement will benefit pretty much every sector of the U.S. economy: the automobile industry, textiles, digital trade and e-commerce, services, manufacturing, and yes, of course, agriculture.

As the representative of a State whose lifeblood is agriculture, farmers and ranchers are always at the top of my mind, and a huge focus of mine right now is helping our struggling agricultural economy.

Low commodity and livestock prices, natural disasters, and protracted trade disputes have made a tough few years for our Nation's farmers. One of the most important things we can do to help our agricultural economy recover is to open new markets for American agricultural products.

During August, I spent a lot of time talking to farmers back home in my State of South Dakota. Again and again, they emphasized that they need action on trade from Washington. With so many trade deals currently up in the air, farmers and ranchers are struggling with a lack of certainty about what international markets are going to look like.

While they share the President's goal of addressing trade imbalances and securing more favorable conditions for American products, they also believe that we need to conclude the agreements that we are negotiating as soon as possible. The longer negotiations drag on, the tougher their situation gets. That is why I have repeatedly stressed the need to bring these agreements to a swift conclusion, and I emphasize that point to the President nearly every time I talk to him.

However, there is one deal we don't need to wait for, and that is the United States-Mexico-Canada Free Trade Agreement. As I said earlier, negotiations on this agreement concluded a year ago, and it is high time for Congress to take it up and pass it so that farmers and ranchers can start seeing the benefits.

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement is a big win for farmers and ranchers. Of particular interest to South Dakota are the agreement's dairy provisions. Dairy is an important and rapidly growing industry in South Dakota. Drive the I-29 corridor north of Brookings, SD, and you can see firsthand the massive dairy expansion that we have experienced over the past several years.

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement will preserve U.S. dairy farmers' role as a key dairy supplier to Mexico, and it will substantially expand market access in Canada, where

U.S. dairy sales have been restricted. The U.S. International Trade Commission estimates that the agreement will boost U.S. dairy exports by more than \$277 million.

The agreement will also expand market access for U.S. poultry and egg producers, and it will make it easier for U.S. producers to export wheat to Canada, and so much more.

Above all, this agreement will provide farmers and ranchers with certainty about what the Canadian and Mexican markets are going to look like going forward. American farmers depend upon these markets to sell their products, and it is vital that farmers have a clear idea of what these markets are going to look like in the future.

Republicans in the Senate are ready to take action on the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement at any point. I hope House Democrats will quickly work out their remaining issues and indicate their willingness to vote on this deal. The administration has made addressing Democrats' concerns a priority throughout the negotiation process, and it is time for Democrats to bring this process to a swift conclusion.

As I mentioned, we are almost a year now past the time when the President signed this agreement, and it has been available for consideration by the House of Representatives for that entire time. It is high time that we act on this trade deal and get it over here to the Senate, where we can vote on it and get it to the President for his signature.

Last week, seven former U.S. Agriculture Secretaries, from both Democratic and Republican administrations, sent a letter to House and Senate leadership stating their strong support for the United States-Mexico-Canada Free Trade Agreement.

The Secretaries noted:

With farmers facing one of the lowest net farm incomes in the last decade, USMCA would create enhanced export opportunities and help fully capitalize on increased global demand for food products. Furthermore, USMCA would significantly boost farm incomes and create jobs both on and off the farm in rural communities.

Again, that is from seven former U.S. Agriculture Secretaries, serving both Republican and Democrat Presidents.

Life hasn't been easy for our Nation's farmers and ranchers over the past few years, and I can certainly attest to that, as I have looked at what the economy in South Dakota has been like in these last several years. The surest way that we can stabilize and boost farm income and help farm country is to conclude agreements like the USMCA. I urge my Democrat colleagues in the House of Representatives to make getting this deal done in the House, over to the Senate, and across the finish line their No. 1 priority.

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. 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.

UKRAINE

MR. SCHUMER. Madam President, we continue to read reports containing additional information about the nature of President Trump's phone calls with Ukrainian President Zelensky and his administration's conduct in the weeks and months before and after those communications.

Ignoring for a moment the political reporting, we know that someone inside the intelligence community found the President's conduct alarming enough to warrant an official whistleblower complaint. The complaint was so alarming that the inspector general of the intelligence community, appointed by President Trump, said that it was credible and urgent and a complaint that by law must be submitted to Congress. This is not one of those discretionary moments; the law says this must be transmitted to Congress.

We still have not received the whistleblower complaint, and Congress has been advised in writing by the inspector general of the intelligence community that the Trump administration is preventing us from getting this report. So later today, I will request the unanimous consent of the Senate to pass a resolution calling for the whistleblower complaint to be provided to the Senate and House Intelligence Committees, as prescribed by law. Let me repeat that. Later today, I will request the unanimous consent of the Senate to pass a resolution calling for the whistleblower complaint to be provided to the Senate and House Intelligence Committees, as prescribed by law.

It is our job in the Congress to provide the necessary oversight of the executive branch, to take these matters—matters of foreign policy, national security, and constitutional integrity—with the utmost gravity, to seek the facts, and then grapple with them.

I made several requests of the majority leader yesterday in an effort to collect the facts, to which I have received no response. Today, I will seek approval for a simple resolution calling for the whistleblower complaint to be transmitted to the relevant committees in Congress. I hope the majority leader and Senate Republicans will not block it. I hope they will rise to the occasion and realize that this is their constitutional duty and realize that this involves the security of the United States.

I will have more to say on the matter before requesting my colleagues' consent to pass this resolution later today.

DECLARATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY

Madam President, on the national emergency—another issue that involves rule of law and the President's overreach—this week, as early as tomorrow, the Senate will vote on whether to terminate the President's national emergency declaration, which he has used to steal from our military to build the border wall—a wall President Trump promised over and over again that Mexico would pay for; not American taxpayers, not American troops, not their families—Mexico. That was the President's promise to the American people. It is a promise he broke. But that is what it has come to.

If my Republican friends choose to stand with President Trump on this vote, they will be supporting the President's taking money from our military and their families to fund a border wall. I imagine that even many of those who support the wall—and that is not a majority or close to a majority of Americans—would not want the money to come from the military.

Later this morning, Democrats will have a press conference where we will talk about this. We will remind people that the consequences of the President's emergency declaration are far-reaching. He is taking money away from military readiness, military families, and the children of servicemembers. He is taking money from military medical facilities in North Carolina and hurricane recovery projects in Florida, money from programs we use to combat Russian cyber aggression and money to upgrade storage facilities that are decrepit and pose a risk because of the munitions that are stored there.

What the heck are we doing here? Congress appropriated these funds with a specific purpose. In our Constitution, the President doesn't get to decide where the money goes; we do. He gets veto power. He tried to shut down the government and failed. If he can get around the constitutionally sanctioned balance of power—that is what a dictator does, not someone who believes in democracy and rule of law.

What he has done here far exceeds any overreach that my Republican colleagues complain about that President Obama did. But, remarkably, too many are silent. Too many are willing to go along. The fear of this President, who many of my colleagues know privately does not have the honor, morality, honesty, and actually competence to do this job—they know that, but they go along with just about everything he does.

On a policy basis, you can shrug your shoulders. That is the differences between the parties. But when it comes to defending the Constitution and rule of law and not letting the Executive overreach—the No. 1 fear of the Founding Fathers—we are above that. Where are our Republican colleagues?