

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 13, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 13, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 13, 2019, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Stanley Blumenfeld, and Mark C. Scarsi, both to be a United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Grace Karaffa Obermann, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years, and Stephen A. Vaden, of Tennessee, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

AMENDING SECTION 442 OF TITLE
18, UNITED STATES CODE, TO EX-
EMPT CERTAIN INTERESTS IN
MUTUAL FUNDS, UNIT INVEST-
MENT TRUSTS, EMPLOYEE BEN-
EFIT PLANS, AND RETIREMENT
PLANS FROM CONFLICT OF IN-
TEREST LIMITATIONS FOR THE
GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OF-
FICE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2851, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2851) to amend section 442 of title 18, United States Code, to exempt certain interests in mutual funds, unit investment trusts, employee benefit plans, and retirement plans from conflict of interest limitations for the Government Publishing Office.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 2851) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2851

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 442 of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 422. Government Publishing Office

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the terms ‘diversified’, ‘employee benefit plan’, ‘holding’, ‘mutual fund’, and ‘unit investment trust’ have the meanings given those terms under section 2640.102 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto; and

“(2) the term ‘printing-related interest’ means an interest, direct or indirect, in—

“(A) the publication of any newspaper or periodical;

“(B) any printing, binding, engraving, or lithographing of any kind; or

“(C) any contract for furnishing paper or other material connected with the public printing, binding, lithographing, or engraving.

“(b) OFFENSE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Director of the Government Publishing Office shall not, during his or her continuance in office, have any printing-related interest.

“(2) EXCEPTION FOR MUTUAL FUNDS, UNIT INVESTMENT TRUSTS, EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS, AND RETIREMENT PLANS.—It shall not be a violation of paragraph (1) for the Director of the Government Publishing Office to have an interest in a diversified mutual fund, diversified unit investment trust, employee benefit plan, investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan under subchapter III of chapter 84 of title 5, or pension plan established or maintained by a State government or any political subdivision of a State government for its employees that has 1 or more holdings that are printing-related interests if the fund, trust, or plan does not exhibit a practice of concentrating in printing-related interests.

“(c) PENALTY.—Whoever violates subsection (b)(1) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 23 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 442 and inserting the following:

“442. Government Publishing Office.”.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 14, 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, November 14; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Menashi nomination, with the postcloture time expiring at 1:45 p.m.; finally, that if confirmed, the motion 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.

The Senator from Wyoming.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA
TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to shine a spot-

light on our strong, healthy, and growing economy. Specifically, my focus is on how this record-setting economy is helping and could continue to help all Americans.

Since Republicans took over and passed tax relief, there has been no end to the boon in jobs in our country. Republicans have put the U.S. worker in the driver's seat. The October jobs report again beat all expectations. U.S. employers added a solid 128,000 jobs last month alone.

Even better, American workers are noting that their wallets are thicker and fatter. Wages are up 3 percent year over year. It is the fastest growth—faster than inflation.

We also continue to see record-low unemployment across the country. At 3.6 percent, the U.S. jobless rate is near a 50-year low. African-American unemployment is at a 50-year low. In fact, 3 years of Republican pro-growth policies have produced more than 6 million new jobs—actually, 6,700,000 new jobs. Today, the United States has nearly 160 million people working. That is another record high. Median household income is the highest in 20 years. No wonder a new poll by Gallup shows Americans are planning to spend more than ever this holiday season because they have the money. They have earned it, and they have kept more of their hard-earned money as a result of tax relief.

The U.S. stock market continues to set new highs, and that is welcome news for people when they look at their pensions, their retirements, and their 401(k)s.

Notably, trade optimism has been a major factor in the stock market's climb to record highs, which brings me to my next point: How do we start the next chapter of the United States in terms of our success story? I believe it is through America-first trade victories.

Without question, the most important trade deal we need to pass right now is USMCA—the United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement. In my view, it is vital to continuing our American prosperity. The U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement was signed by all three countries' leaders more than a year ago, so you would think, well, it should be in place. But it takes more than that. Mexico gave its final approval to USMCA in June. Canada is waiting for us—for the House and the Senate—to give the approval as well.

Without a doubt, USMCA is the best trade upgrade in 25 years. It is going to expand market access for a host of U.S. products, and it is going to sharpen U.S. exporters' competitive edge. Above all, USMCA is a big benefit for American workers. It will protect and produce millions of U.S. jobs, and that is critical.

I predict it will pass the Senate with strong bipartisan support. So it has to get here. Yet we have not crossed the finish line. There is a roadblock, and the roadblock is at the other end of

this building. The roadblock is Speaker NANCY PELOSI. She has not and will not yet allow a vote in the House of Representatives. It seems to me the Speaker is too obsessed with impeaching the President instead of being focused on fighting for American workers. She stopped all progress on USMCA in its tracks.

The stakes, meanwhile, could not be higher. Passing USMCA will save American jobs. Twelve million current American jobs are on the line. The deal will create 180,000 new U.S. jobs. USMCA is a boon for the entire economy. It will boost our economy by \$70 billion. So what exactly is the Speaker waiting for?

Canada and Mexico are our top trading partners. U.S. producers don't need impeachment chaos or an impeachment circus; what we need is trade certainty.

Not only is the deal essential for U.S. manufacturers, our ranchers and farmers are counting on it as well. Canada and Mexico are the top export markets for American farmers. Last year, U.S. agriculture exports to the two countries totaled \$40 billion. For the past 5 years, Mexico has consistently ranked second or third for U.S. wheat imports.

USMCA is a huge win for Wyoming wheat growers. My State is going to reap enormous benefits from this deal. Wyoming foreign trade has increased nearly 20 percent in recent years. Wyoming farmers—the Presiding Officer knows this, coming from an agriculture State—play a key role in our economy. This Friday, I will be honored to attend the 100th annual meeting of the Wyoming Farm Bureau. It will be in Laramie. Our farmers add billions to the State economy every year, and trade is a big part of it.

Wyoming's annual agriculture exports total \$300 million. The export market supports 2,600 jobs in our State. Our State not only produces livestock, seeds, and crops, but we are exporting essential chemicals that farmers everywhere need to grow their crops.

Wyoming farmers and ranchers are counting on expanded export markets for future growth. New markets mean new opportunities, and Wyoming is poised to seize them.

In coming years, we plan to add to our high-quality beef, our grain, and our hay exports. Future State exports will include gluten-free products, as well as craft beer and distilled spirits, just to name a few.

That is why the USMCA agreement is so essential for the people, not just in Wyoming but for people all across America. To keep our record-setting economy on track, we need to pass this “America First” trade deal, and we need to do it now.

It is time to put partisan politics aside. It is time to pass USMCA.

IMPEACHMENT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, on a different topic, I come to the floor

today to discuss the Democrats' partisan campaign against President Trump.

The Democrats have been obsessed with impeaching him since day one of his Presidency, and I absolutely mean day one. As the President was taking the oath of office, sworn in to the Presidency, the Washington Post ran this headline: “The campaign to impeach President Trump has begun.” It was posted, actually, at 12:18, the day he took the oath of office. The minute he took the oath of office, that headline was posted.

So 3 years have passed, and impeachment is still taking up all the Democrats' time, all their efforts, and all their energy. They are fixated on it, and they are obsessed with it. As a doctor, in my opinion, the Democrats have a bad case of impeachment fever, and it seems that there is no cure for them.

We all know that Democrats deeply dislike this President. They have from the moment he was elected in November 2016. Let me ask you: Does that mean they get to overturn the last election? That is what they are trying to do, not to mention interfere with the upcoming election. That is really what it is—a bitterly partisan process.

Remember, it is being controlled by one political party. This is totally partisan, and up to now, at least it has been conducted, prior to today, in total secret, in the cellar, behind closed doors, and in the shadows. That is the way they have done it. It is not a fair process—no transparency and no accountability.

I think President Trump has a right to be treated fairly, yet his rights have been completely ignored. The process, in my opinion, is rigged against the President. The outcome is predetermined and fixed. The Democratic House wins; the American public loses.

Democrats are so obsessed, they can't work. The people elected them to do a job, to work for them, and they are nowhere to be found. The Democrats, for example, will not pass defense funding, funding our military, protecting our borders, protecting our Nation, and they will not approve trade deals or lower drug costs. They will not even help fix our aging roads and bridges.

Well, that is all bad news for the American people. All of this is tied up in the impeachment obsession that is grinding the Democrats in the House to a halt. The good news is, Republicans are highly resistant to this fever, and so are most Americans.

We are not going to join the Democrats' impeachment campaign. Republicans prefer to work on the issues we were elected to address—jobs, the economy, national security—and we are going to continue to work for the people who elected us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— S. RES. 150

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, over 104 years ago, the Ottoman Empire launched a systematic campaign to exterminate the Armenian population through killings, forced deportation, starvation, and other brutal means. Every year I join the Armenian community in honoring the memory of the victims who made invaluable contributions to sustain the Armenian people and preserve Armenian history and culture before their cruel, inhuman deaths.

At the time of the genocide, U.S. diplomats who witnessed it knew that the tragedy they were seeing was an intentional choice. Henry Morgenthau, the then-U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, said that the Turkish Government's deportation order for the Armenians was “a death warrant to a whole race.” Those are his words. They are “a death warrant to a whole race,” and an aim which “they made no particular attempt to conceal” in their discussions with them.

We know what to call such an intentional, highly organized effort to destroy a people on account of their identity alone: genocide. In other circumstances, no one questions this definition.

U.S. foreign policy must reflect an honest accounting of human rights abuses, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing, and genocide. We cannot turn our backs on the Armenian victims of genocide nor on any victims of genocide anywhere or anytime it occurs. If we do, we only empower those who seek to use genocide as a weapon of war for their own malevolent purposes.

The Government of Turkey has funded lobbyists willing to trumpet lies and make excuses for these atrocities. The Turkish Government and its sympathizers have advocated for restrictive laws on expression and against legislation that recognizes the Armenian genocide, initiated prosecutions and smear campaigns against those who study the Armenian community's experiences at the hands of the Turks, and even resorted to violence and harassment of journalists and human rights activists who bravely speak the truth. These actions are unacceptable and speak volumes to both the crime and its coverup.

Thankfully, there are also voices speaking up against Turkey's efforts to silence the truth of the Armenian genocide. I have long worked in the U.S. Senate to push for this honest accounting and to ensure that anyone who represents the U.S. Government does the same. In every session of Congress since 2006, I have introduced or cosponsored resolutions affirming the facts of the Armenian genocide. When I was chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I was proud to preside over the passage of an Armenian genocide resolution out of committee for the first time.