

anyone why he is prioritizing fighting with the White House over simply letting the appropriators do their work.

I feel confident that the coronavirus does not care about partisan bickering or political news cycles. This new disease is not going to press pause so that Members can engage in performative outrage that gets us further from results rather than closer.

This is our first step in confronting the challenge. The Congress must be prepared to work together across the aisle in a collaborative way and actually get results.

Fortunately, it appears we will have an opportunity to put this cynicism behind us quickly and move forward in a unified way.

Bipartisan discussions are already underway among our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee. I have full confidence that Chairman SHELBY, Senator LEAHY, and our colleagues are fully capable of handling this quite well.

I have faith the committee will carefully consider the right sum to appropriate at this time to ensure our Nation's needs are fully funded. I hope they can work expeditiously so the full Senate would be able to take up the legislation within the next 2 weeks.

And I hope, as we move forward through this challenge, this body can put reflexive partisanship aside and uphold the spirit of cooperation and collaboration that this will require.

TRIBUTE TO LAURA DOVE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, now, on an entirely different matter, earlier this week I said paying tribute to departing Senate staff is one of my favorite and least favorite things to do, simultaneously.

So I am especially unhappy to be back at it again today.

There is almost nobody—nobody—in this institution with whom I have worked more closely, or whose counsel I have sought more frequently, over the past 6½ years than Laura Dove.

Few people actually understand how important the Secretaries for the Majority and to the Minority are to this institution. These two officers supervise each side's cloakroom and floor staff. They are sort of like air traffic controllers who help Senators sequence the bills, amendments, and nominations that we vote on. They keep every office apprised of what exactly has happened, is happening, and will happen on the floor.

They serve as in-house procedural experts to each side, advising the leader and the chairmen. And they build close relationships with every Member of their side, trying to ensure the floor schedule reflects everything from Senators' policy priorities to their personal scheduling conflicts.

And while the two Secretaries are doing all this work in parallel with each other, they are also constantly working together. On many daily ques-

tions of process and of timing, their one-on-one relationship is the diplomatic frontline between the two sides of the aisle.

The Senate, as you know, is a consent-based institution. Almost every practicality is made much easier with bipartisan agreement—from scheduling major votes to packaging nominees, to literally turning the lights on every morning. And it is often Laura and her counterpart, Gary, who hammer out those details.

Consider the limitless scope of this job. It is no wonder Laura has made a certain piece of human resources phraseology into her personal mantra and her cloakroom's motto: "Other duties as assigned."

The Secretary for the Majority is essential to the Senate, and so Laura has become essential to all of us.

There cannot be many father-daughter pairs in world history—in world history—who have bonded over parliamentary procedure, but the fact is, it doesn't just seem like the Senate is Laura's natural habitat; she literally grew up in this place.

Laura's father, Bob Dove, started in the Parliamentarian's Office in the 1960s. He kept rising, and in the 1980s and 1990s, he was the Parliamentarian.

Bob was known for a wry saying he would repeat after tough days: "You may love the Senate, but the Senate may not love you back."

Unfortunately, for his family, one of the Senate's love languages turns out to be keeping people here late at night, which meant that the Dove family dinners, orchestrated by Laura's mom, Linda, sometimes happened in the corners of this very building.

The exposure sparked Laura's curiosity. Those family dinners turned into days off from school, spent wandering the halls and trying to imitate the duties of the pages. Then she put on the page uniform herself, and that is how this distinguished decades-long Senate career began: delivering notes, filling water glasses, and studying for math tests in the attic dorms of the Library of Congress.

That was the mid-1980s. Laura debuted in the cloakroom right around the time I debuted as a freshman Senator. Neither of us knew what awaited us.

From the lowest rung to the top of the ladder, Laura threw herself into literally everything. At every step, no task was too insignificant and no challenge was too great. Laura has had a hand in every accomplishment of this institution for nearly a decade. She has played a significant role in literally every single victory of this majority.

Her job performance alone would be stunningly impressive. But what is even more unfathomable is the level of kindness and good cheer she has maintained while doing it. She seems to begin every day with a smile on her face and a show tune on her lips. She treats everybody with the same respect and simple kindness, from the pages

whom she invites over for home-cooked holiday meals to the Senators whose family details she has committed to memory.

She is as happy tutoring junior staff in Senate basics as talking strategy with senior members. No matter how late the floor was open the night before, the same Laura clocked in the next morning, full of joy and maybe a new recipe to share with fellow Senate foodies.

Laura reminds us that the Senate's strength comes from its people. She has embodied this in her professional conduct, fighting to preserve and protect this institution as she helped us navigate through it, and she has embodied this institution in her personal character as well. She treats everybody with such warmth and respect as though this Chamber were our shared second home—and in some cases, it literally has been.

This staffer is so dedicated that she has rung in major milestone birthdays on these very premises, stolen sleep on a couch during overnight sessions—you get the picture.

Few were shocked when Laura's previous attempts to leave the Senate fizzled out after a year or so. I remember being relieved when I got another year, but I suspected she would be back.

But this time is different. In recent months, I know Laura has grown more and more excited to reallocate some time from her second home to her real home, to the family she has built with her husband Dan and their children, Abby and Jake.

Laura loves this body, its rules, its quirks, and its history more than almost anything. I say almost anything. But she loves a family dinner with those three, a glass of Chardonnay, and a game night by the fireplace even more. And as they prepare to send their oldest off to college soon, that time is becoming extra precious.

For us Senators it is hard to imagine what it is going to feel like next week when Laura is not here. I imagine she may feel the same way. But I know this: Those of us who remain will frequently ask ourselves "What would Laura do?" And whether the issue at hand is institutional or strategic or culinary, we will know asking that question will point us in the right direction.

I also know that Laura will be departing with some new wisdom of her own. She will know that, in a rare occurrence, her brilliant father actually got one thing wrong—that funny old saying: "You may love the Senate, but the Senate won't love you back." Well, his daughter will leave knowing that is only half true.

So, Laura, this institution cannot thank you enough, nor can this majority, nor can I. But I feel certain you will never quite be a stranger to the Senate. I don't think you could manage it even if you tried. So we won't say goodbye. We will just conclude with one more piece of Laura lingo she made famous: "Ciao for now."

MEASURE PLACED ON THE
CALENDAR—S. 3339

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3339) to restore military priorities, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I want to join with the leader and my colleagues in thanking and recognizing Laura Dove, who is leaving us and the Senate at the end of the week. I don't think there is anybody else more identified with the U.S. Senate by Senators and their staffs than Laura.

When the leader was arriving here as a freshman Senator, I was arriving as a young 24-year-old staffer and happened to, I think, overlap, as well, when Laura was a page here. So she has been here; this has been her life; and many of us have had the opportunity through the years to observe her in action and to realize not only how talented and gifted she is but what a person of incredible integrity and character as well.

She spent more than two decades serving in the Senate and three weeks serving as my seatmate during the impeachment trial, which I am hoping wasn't the last straw in convincing her to retire.

For the last 7 years, she has been the Secretary of the Minority and Majority, a role that involves managing the Republican cloakroom, helping develop the floor schedule, keeping Members informed about votes, and providing Members with legislative and parliamentary counsel.

Laura has done all that and more over the past 7 years and has done it with distinction. All of us on this side of the aisle rely on her counsel, and there is no way we would have been able to accomplish all that we have accomplished in the past few years without her wisdom and expertise. She has the rare ability to tell Senators no—always with a smile—and actually have them listen.

I have sought Laura's advice many times, especially since becoming whip last year, and I will greatly miss her counsel, although I am hopeful she will be leaving a forwarding address for future questions.

As the leader pointed out, you might say Laura was raised on the Senate. Her father Robert "Bob" Dove twice served as Senate Parliamentarian and had a Senate career that spanned nearly 40 years, so Laura grew up steeped in Senate procedure and tradition.

But her own career began as a Senate page, and I think perhaps her proudest accomplishment in the Senate has been mentoring literally the scores of pages who have passed through the Republican cloakroom on her watch. I know she has made their experience a richer and more meaningful one.

So, Laura, we thank you for your tireless work, the long days and the nights you put in. Your wisdom, patience, and unfailing good humor will be sorely missed by Senators and staff of both parties. We wish you all the very best in your future endeavors, and I hope that your next job will involve fewer late nights and more time for leisure, including loading up the RV and making another trip to the Black Hills of South Dakota.

5G

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, most of us think that today's internet is pretty fast. We receive traffic updates basically in realtime, get emails within a second or two, and stream our favorite shows whenever and wherever we want. But as advanced as today's internet is, the next generation of internet 5G will make 4G look like dial-up.

For instance, 5G mobile broadband technology will deliver speeds up to 100 times faster than what today's technology can deliver. It will be vastly more responsive than 4G technology, and it will be able to connect 100 times—100 times—the number of devices that can be connected with 4G.

While that will make it even easier to do the things we do today, like check our email or stream our favorite shows, the biggest benefits of 5G will lie in the other technologies it will enable—precision agriculture, medical and surgical innovation, safer vehicles, and much more.

The technology for 5G is already here, but there is more work to be done to get to nationwide 5G deployment. A key part of getting to that point is developing the workforce that will be required to install and maintain the 5G network.

Current internet technology relies on cell phone towers, but 5G technology will require not just traditional cell phone towers but small antennas called small cells that can often be attached to existing infrastructure like utility poles or buildings.

Wireless providers will have to install nearly 800,000 small cells around the Nation to support a nationwide 5G network. Of course, after installation, every one of those small cells will have to be monitored and maintained. That will require a substantial increase in the telecommunications workforce.

It is estimated that deploying the necessary infrastructure for 5G will create approximately 50,000 new construction jobs each year over the build-out period, and that is just for construction. Right now there simply aren't enough workers with the necessary training to meet the needs of nationwide 5G.

Industry and community colleges have stepped forward to provide train-

ing opportunities, but more work needs to be done if the United States wants to step forward into the 5G future.

As past chairman of the Commerce Committee and the current chairman of the Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet, 5G has long been a priority of mine. I have spent a lot of time focused on advancing 5G deployment, especially to rural States like my home State of South Dakota. I was very proud to be in Sioux Falls a few months ago when the city unveiled one of the first 5G networks in the country.

In 2018, the President signed into law legislation that I developed to increase access to critical spectrum, and I have also introduced legislation to facilitate small cell deployment, especially in rural areas.

Today, I am introducing legislation to address the other part of the 5G equation—creating a large enough workforce to deploy and maintain all those small cells. As I said, industry and community colleges have both stepped forward to provide programs to train workers. Places like VIKOR Teleconstruction and Southeast Tech in Sioux Falls, SD, are already helping to train the 5G workforce of the future. But more work needs to be done.

My Telecommunications Skilled Workforce Act would help increase the number of workers enrolled in 5G training programs and identify ways to grow the telecommunications workforce to meet the demands of 5G. My bill would require the Department of Labor to bring together our Federal partners, as well as individuals on the ground, deploying next-generation telecommunications services. The resulting working group would be required to identify any current laws or regulations that are making it difficult for educational institutions and businesses to establish programs to help meet the workforce needs of the telecom industry.

It would also be required to identify existing Federal programs to help address workforce shortages, as well as ways the Federal Government could encourage or incentivize growth in the telecommunications workforce, including the deployment of fixed broadband in our rural areas. My bill would also direct the Department of Labor and the Federal Communications Commission to issue guidance for States to help them leverage existing Federal resources for growing their telecommunications workforces and to help them improve recruitment for industry-led telecommunications development programs like the Wireless Infrastructure Association's Telecommunications Industry Registered Apprenticeship Program.

I appreciate my colleagues, Senators Tester, Moran, and Peters, for partnering with me on this bill.

Getting to 5G in the near future is important for our whole country—both economically and for the advances it will bring in fields like medicine and