

## CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last night in California, an American was diagnosed with the first reported case of coronavirus unrelated to any travel to an infected area—a sign that coronavirus is here on our shores and we must act swiftly and strongly to contain its spread.

Despite months of public warnings about the danger of this disease, the President was caught completely flat-footed by the coronavirus. And now, instead of quickly marshaling the resources of the Federal Government to respond to this health crisis, President Trump is intent on blaming everyone and everything instead of solving the problem. Instead of stepping up to the plate, he is belittling the urgency of this problem and telling people: Oh, it's not very much. The experts say the opposite.

As for blame, the President is blaming the press for stoking concern about the virus; the President is blaming social media for magnifying those legitimate concerns; and the President, typically, is blaming Democrats too.

But who fired the global health security team at the National Security Council and Department of Homeland Security and decided not to replace them? It wasn't the press. It wasn't the Democrats. It was President Trump.

Who cut \$35 million from the infectious disease rapid response fund? President Trump.

Who cut \$85 million from the emerging infectious disease account? President Trump.

Who cut \$120 million from public health preparedness and response programs? President Trump.

And who just proposed cutting 16 percent of CDC's budget—the agency in charge of fighting these kinds of viruses? Not the Democrats, not the press—President Trump did that.

Of course Democrats want to work quickly with the President to get a handle on this problem. Lives are at stake, but the President cannot belittle the danger. It is real; it is looming; it is serious.

To hear the President last night, when most of his speech was not a sober speech calling America to unite and fight this virus—it was mainly name-calling, politics, blaming, and, in fact, belittling the problem and the danger.

The President must stop trying to minimize the nature of the coronavirus threat. His attempts at spinning the facts are just not credible, and they are harmful to the Federal response.

In order to prevent overreaction by the public, it is essential that the Federal officials—especially the President and Vice President—level with the American people. Telling the American people the truth and then coming up with solutions to solve it is the way to calm people down—not simply saying “Oh, don't worry about it” and then spending time blaming others. That is not going to calm people down; that is going to make them more worried.

So let's let the science and the facts guide us. The American people do not need or want uninformed opinions or spin from its leaders. They want the truth.

Now, the first step the Congress must take is to ensure that the government has the resources to combat this deadly virus and keep Americans safe. I have made a request for \$8.5 billion for this purpose—far more than the administration's request of \$2.5 billion, only half of which is new funding. The rest of the President's proposed funding is stolen from other accounts.

Any emergency funding supplemental the Congress approves must be entirely new funding, not stolen from other accounts, and include, at minimum, strong provisions that ensure, one, that the President cannot transfer these new funds to anything other than coronavirus and American and global preparedness to combat epidemics and infectious diseases; two, vaccines that are affordable and available to all who need them, not just to those who have a good deal of money; three, interest-free loans be made available for small businesses impacted by the outbreak; and four, State and local governments be reimbursed for costs incurred while assisting the Federal response to the corona outbreak.

Democrats in both Chambers will work closely with Republicans to pass a supplemental appropriations package with these criteria in mind. But in the meantime, President Trump must get his act together: Stop blaming, stop belittling, roll up your sleeves, unite America, and start proposing real solutions.

After months of dithering, after towering and dangerous incompetence, it is time for President Trump to roll up his sleeves and do the right thing.

## INDIA

Mr. President, on another matter, the President yesterday returned to Washington from India. The United States and India are natural allies. If the United States and India are close friends and partners, the world will be a safer, more prosperous place. India has an amazing culture and great people. So unifying America and India is a very good thing.

But did the President do anything on his trip that substantively advanced that objective? No, he did not. Sadly, the President's trip to India was typical of foreign policy in the Trump era—a big spectacle with handshakes and photo-ops but without meaningful progress or accomplishment for the United States.

There were real things for the President to accomplish in India. We are now India's largest trading partner—one of the largest markets for our agricultural products, medical devices, even motorbikes. Did the President make any progress on a trade deal to reduce the significant market access barriers that American companies face? No.

India is in the midst of fierce protests over a law that restricts religious

freedom. Did the President stand up for religious freedom and democratic values? No. He didn't even bring up the issue with the Prime Minister.

There are 4 million Indian Americans. I am proud to say many are in the New York area. They have done and continued to do so much for this great country. Their history, music, culture, literature are woven into the very fabric of American life. Indian-American families form the backbone of so many strong communities in New York City, in Long Island and the suburbs, and all over the country. They deserve more than Presidential photo-ops in their native land. They deserve a President who takes the friendship between the United States and India seriously and works to build a strategic alliance.

But this President cannot seem to manage anything beyond reality-show diplomacy, and that is why President Trump will likely end his first term bereft of any significant foreign policy achievement.

## TRIBUTE TO LAURA DOVE

Mr. President, finally, on a different note and a very happy note, I want to conclude my remarks by noting the departure of a staffer who, although she works for Leader MCCONNELL, is truly a resource for and a credit to the Senate as a whole—Laura Dove.

It is a happy note for her. She is moving on to even bigger and better things. But it is a sad note for all of us, Democrats and Republicans, in the Senate because she has done such a good job.

Laura is the Secretary for the Majority. As with many job titles in Washington, Laura's title does not come close to capturing what she actually does, nor does it remotely reflect her importance to this Chamber.

The two caucus Secretaries—Gary Myrick for the Senate minority and Laura Dove for the majority—literally make the Senate function. Their negotiations determine when we come in and out of session, which amendments will be considered, and their parliamentary expertise guides Senators of both parties. Laura's attention to detail is such that even the dress code of the Senate does not escape her.

Laura has certainly been around this Chamber for as long as many of the Senators she advises. The Senate is in her blood. Her father, Bob Dove, was the Senate Parliamentarian. Dinner table conversations in the Dove household must have included the arcane of Senate procedure, particularly because some of those family dinners occurred here in the Senate itself, as Mr. Dove worked the sometimes late hours of the Senate.

Both of Mr. Dove's daughters served as pages, and now both of Laura's children have served as pages as well—a family tradition unique among family traditions. Few have done as much to support the page program as Laura. She not only keeps a watchful and supportive eye over their time on the

floor, but she has invited them into her home, welcoming any page wishing to celebrate a Jewish holiday with her family. I want to thank her especially for how much she has done for Senate pages, and from the vantage point of the lens of the C-SPAN camera, the Senate floor looks like a forum for disagreement and sometimes for vociferous debate. Few beyond this Chamber appreciate how important it is for our two parties to cooperate every day amidst those disagreements to make the work of the Senate come to life. Though our parties have vastly different opinions on everything, ranging from policy to procedure, Laura has always represented the position of her caucus honestly and treated our staff with civility and respect.

She even takes a bit of that work home with her. Her husband, Dan Solomon, worked for someone—Senator Wofford—who was a good, strong, liberal Democrat, if there ever was one.

The Republican leader this morning gave a very personal and emotional tribute to Laura's service. You could see how much she means to him and the entire Republican caucus. I echo those sentiments, and I would extend them to the Senate as a whole. Few care more about this institution, its traditions, its history, and its future than Laura Dove, and few have worked harder to support the Senate in their careers.

Robert Duncan, Laura's assistant, will be taking her place today. He has big shoes to fill but is a really talented guy who knows how this place works. All I can tell you, Robert, is if you listen to Gary Myrick, you can't go wrong.

Laura, we wish you nothing but the best for the next chapter of your life, and we thank you profoundly for your service to the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Greaves nomination?

Mr. PAUL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) would have voted "yea."

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Minnesota

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or to change their vote?

The result was announced—yeas 85, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 62 Ex.]

YEAS—85

Baldwin	Graham	Risch
Barrasso	Grassley	Roberts
Bennet	Hassan	Romney
Blackburn	Hawley	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rounds
Blunt	Hoeven	Rubio
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Braun	Inhofe	Schumer
Brown	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Burr	Jones	Scott (SC)
Cantwell	Kaine	Shaheen
Capito	Kennedy	Shelby
Carper	King	Sinema
Casey	Lankford	Smith
Cassidy	Leahy	Stabenow
Collins	Lee	Sullivan
Cooms	Loeffler	Tester
Cornyn	Manchin	Thune
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Tillis
Cotton	McSally	Toomey
Cramer	Menendez	Udall
Crapo	Merkley	Van Hollen
Daines	Murkowski	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Whitehouse
Enzi	Murray	Wicker
Ernst	Paul	Wyden
Feinstein	Peters	Young
Fischer	Portman	
Gardner	Reed	

NAYS—3

Booker	Gillibrand	Harris
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NOT VOTING—12

Alexander	Heinrich	Perdue
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sanders
Cruz	Markey	Schatz
Durbin	Moran	Warren

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority leader.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### ADVANCED GEOTHERMAL INNOVATION LEADERSHIP ACT OF 2019— Motion to Proceed

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 357, S. 2657.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 357, S. 2657, a bill to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk for the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 357, S. 2657, an act to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Lisa Murkowski, Steve Daines, Bill Cassidy, John Barrasso, Martha McSally, Deb Fischer, Richard C. Shelby, John Hoeven, Thom Tillis, John Thune, Pat Roberts, Richard Burr, Mike Rounds, Shelley Moore Capito, Roy Blunt, Mike Crapo.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3173

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, in a message to Congress on July 4, 1861, Abraham Lincoln wrote that the leading object of government was to "elevate the condition of men, to lift artificial weights from all shoulders; to clear the paths of laudable pursuit for all; to afford all an unfettered start and a fair chance in the race of life."

It is no coincidence that he gave this message on the anniversary of our Nation's birth. Lincoln was echoing the profound legacy of our founding—a legacy that shaped our Nation and thereafter rippled across not only the Western Hemisphere but the entire world.

When the Founders broke off from the yoke of British tyranny, they declared all men to be endowed with certain inalienable rights—rights that come not from the State, a church, any man or woman, or even from a government, but, rather, from God himself.

The first of these inalienable rights was life. Never was any nation in the history of human beings born of a higher principle or a deeper connection to human happiness and flourishing. Here, the people would rule. Here, government would serve the people and not the other way around. Here, for the first time ever, each person, no matter his or her station in life, was endowed with these rights and entitled to their equal protection.

Today, 159 years since Lincoln's message to Congress and 244 years since the Founders' message to the world, here we stand sworn, still, to fulfill their promise.

As far as we have come during that time period, we still have so far to go. Today, our government—founded to protect Americans' rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—threatens unborn Americans on all three counts. The Supreme Court imposes and Congress subsidizes the most