

happening is that the Democratic leader is moving the goalposts. There had been a bipartisan understanding about how to finish this bill, but yesterday the Democratic leader decided to change his tune and demand a vote on something outside the scope of the current debate. I hope we can get past this showmanship, finish this bipartisan legislation, and send it to the House so we can get it on the President's desk. Let's don't squander this real opportunity.

Chairman MURKOWSKI's and Senator MANCHIN's compromise product will help our Nation move toward greater energy security, energy efficiency, and energy affordability for years to come—new support for energy efficiency efforts, new incentives for innovation, new tools to secure our electrical grid, and new ways to strengthen our domestic supply chain for important minerals, and on and on and on.

This Chamber got it right last week when it proceeded to the bill by a vote of 90 to 4. It hasn't suddenly become controversial overnight. Everyone knows there are plenty of outside issues that Senators do not agree on. We should let ourselves agree on what we do agree on. Let me say that again: We should let ourselves agree on what we do agree on and complete this legislation this week.

Let's keep legislating. Let's get this done. The American people deserve it.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, now, on a final matter, this afternoon all Senators will have the opportunity to attend a briefing on election security from administration experts who tackle the issue every day. The FBI Director; the Acting Secretary of Homeland Security; General Nakasone of the NSA and Cyber Command; the Director of Counterintelligence at the DNI; and a number of other senior leaders will come here to the Capitol to discuss this critical subject.

I look forward to hearing more about the significant and strong steps the Trump administration has taken over the past 3 years to secure our democracy and punch back against the real and varied foreign efforts to interfere. I look forward to hearing more about the unprecedented level of coordination that has connected nonpartisan Federal experts in all 50 States, U.S. territories, thousands of local jurisdictions, and private sector leaders to make sure the unpreparedness and inaction that defined the Obama administration's failures in 2016 was not repeated in 2018 and will not be repeated in 2020 or beyond.

I look forward to hearing about how the record sums of money, hundreds of millions of dollars that Congress has put aside for direct grants so States and local election officials can shore up their systems, are making our democracy safer. I expect I will have more to say following the briefing. I expect

many of our colleagues will, but, beforehand, I would like to say this: The American people have confidence in our democracy, as they should. Just last month, a survey found that more than 70 percent of Americans are confident their State or local government will conduct a fair and accurate election this November. Let me say this again. Just last month, a survey found that more than 70 percent of Americans are confident their State or local government will conduct a fair and accurate election this November, and they should be confident about the resilience of our institutions.

Our Nation is strong. The Trump administration has made huge strides. After 8 years of weakness, this administration's foreign policy has made it clear to our adversaries that the United States of America is not going to be pushed around, but the American people also know we must remain vigilant. As long as Russia and other nations seek to meddle, we need to be ready.

Election security is critically important to our Nation, and it can only be handled right if it is handled with good faith and bipartisanship.

When Washington Democrats use this particular topic as a platform for demonizing the other side or for pushing tangential policy proposals, which the left had sought many years—many years—before 2016, everyone can see right through it. It only signals unseriousness.

So I encourage all my colleagues to attend the bipartisan briefing today, and then let's preserve that bipartisan spirit and that unity. Let's focus on fighting against foreign interference, not fighting each other.

We should not just snap right back into tired, old partisanship. We should not let Putin or anyone else bait Americans into talking down our own democracy or sowing more fear and discord among ourselves than other adversaries could ever hope to do themselves.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3422

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3422) to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land

Management, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Indian Education, and to provide permanent, dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and for other purposes.

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

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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.

S. 2657

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, before I get into the remarks, substance, of coronavirus and H.R. 1, I would like to mention that Leader MCCONNELL did not give the right story when he talked about the Energy bill. I would remind people, 13 Democrats voted for cloture; 15 Republicans opposed cloture. I would remind the leader that it was a Republican, Senator KENNEDY, who led the charge to deny cloture, and it was well known that Democrats simply wanted an amendment on the Kennedy bill—a Republican amendment—wanted an ability to vote. Once again, because Leader MCCONNELL does not allow amendments and debate and, instead, just adds more items to his legislative graveyard, the bill went down. But 13 Democrats voted for cloture. If he had his Republican troops together, he might have been able to pass it anyway. To blame Democrats and say we are moving the goalpost is just a total misstatement of what happened.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on COVID, as our country continues to experience the spread of coronavirus, COVID-19, the effects are beginning to be more acutely felt. First and foremost, our hearts go out to the families of those who have lost loved ones during this illness. Second, our healthcare systems are under tremendous stress, businesses have been forced to cut back, and the virus is already starting to take a toll on the economy. As the impact of the coronavirus spreads, the administration appears to have shifted its focus, holding a press conference yesterday to talk about measures the administration might pursue to calm the markets.

I would remind the White House: By far, the best way to ensure economic security for the American people is to deal directly with the coronavirus itself. Again, getting a handle on the crisis and addressing the virus itself is by far the best way to respond to any negative effects on our economy.

The administration seems to believe that the answer to any problem is another tax cut. And no matter what they say about it when they put it together, it always seems to benefit the wealthy and the big and powerful corporations. This is a healthcare crisis; it demands a healthcare solution.

To borrow an expression: You must treat the disease, not the symptoms.

Mr. President, do you hear that? You must treat the disease—the coronavirus—not the symptom, which is the result of the coronavirus, which is the economy.

The President wakes up to a problem only after it has an effect on Wall Street, and his solutions are often aimed, misguidedly, only at calming the nerves on Wall Street. The real answer in this case is to protect the American people, focus on their health and economic security, and competently respond to the public health crisis at our doorstep.

Speaker PELOSI and I have mentioned several actions we could take, from paid sick leave for impacted workers to unemployment insurance, food and housing security, and protections against price gouging. But one thing the administration must focus on right now, above all, is fixing the problems we are having with testing.

The most powerful tool in responding to a virus is to know precisely where it is and how it is spreading. Because the administration took weeks before they developed an accurate test and because the administration was slow to ramp up the number of Americans tested and is now having trouble turning around the results of those tests at a fast enough pace, we are now far behind where we ought to be in understanding how far the virus has already spread.

The United States has the best hospitals, doctors, and scientists in the world. Yet, currently, we are lagging far behind other countries when it comes to testing our citizens. We are behind the United Kingdom, behind France, behind China, behind Switzerland, the Netherlands, Israel, Japan, and Italy. Every day we read a new story in the press about Americans having difficulty getting a test for coronavirus even though they are displaying symptoms. Our own Health and Human Services was unable to say how many Americans have been tested.

It is shocking; it is infuriating. If other countries can do this, why can't we? If other countries do it right, why can't we? South Korea, which has far more prevalent amounts of coronavirus, is already seeing the number of new reports go down because they have done extensive, thorough, and accurate testing.

The result here—why we are not doing as well as other countries is a direct result of the colossal failure of leadership and planning from this administration and this President. One word describes the Trump administration's response to the coronavirus so far: "Incompetence."

I know there are hard-working CDC scientists and experts trying to help the American people. The political appointees are the ones who don't seem to get it and are putting politics over the safety and security of the American people. And it goes right to the top. In the midst of a public health crisis—a serious and dangerous public health crisis—the President has repeatedly pushed unscientific claims about the coronavirus, the availability of a vaccine, and given bad advice—bad advice—to Americans who might have symptoms.

If the President would just keep quiet, it would be better than what he is doing, which is negative. What we really need is leadership. More than ever, we need the President to drop the conspiracy theories, end the Panglossian optimism, and the unscientific speculation. Now more than ever, we need President Trump to lead our government's response with competence and to be truthful with the American people. As I said yesterday, we are all rooting for that, but the President and his administration must take a hard look in the mirror, focus on the problem at hand, not the side effects, and get to work on fixing them.

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, H.R. 1—this past Sunday marked one year since the House passed H.R. 1, the For the People Act. This bill takes urgent and long overdue steps to renew our democracy. It will reverse the corrupting effects of Citizens United. It will restore protections for voting. And it will take aim at Washington's culture of corruption, which has run rampant under this administration.

It could not come at a better time. Every election, we see the sweeping power of big money. State legislatures have found new ways to deny Americans, often minorities, access to the ballot. Our adversaries—including the Russians—work day and night to influence our elections and sow confusion in the public sphere. H.R. 1 would forcefully and directly address each of these issues. But, like every other bill passed by the House over the past 2 years, it has been buried in Leader MCCONNELL's legislative graveyard. We must move it. This bill is about making our democracy work and giving American citizens some faith in the future.

Republicans, rather than working with Democrats to strengthen our democracy, have stood in the way. They have blocked election security legislation and sanctions to deter foreign adversaries from trying to interfere in our democracy. They have enabled

President Trump's assault on the separation of powers through their silence on the President's many abuses of power. Even today, the Republicans are putting forward a nominee for the Federal Election Commission who expressed doubts regarding the benefits of even the most reasonable restrictions on campaign spending, including disclosure.

When H.R. 1 first passed the House, Leader MCCONNELL called this bill to restore voting rights and get money out of politics a "terrible proposal" and a "power grab." If Leader MCCONNELL thinks that getting big money out of politics is a terrible idea, if he truly believes making it easier for Americans to vote is a power grab by Democrats, then God help the Republican Party and God help this country.

Democrats will not stop fighting for this bill, nor will we ever stop fighting to restore the democratic values that have guided our Nation for 2½ centuries. In the United States, each person's vote should have the same weight as everyone else's. That is a hallmark of our democracy. A fair and free election is the wellspring of our democracy. It is what Americans have died for in the battlefields around the world, what civil rights activists have marched for across the bridges and the generations. And though the Republican leader has been adamant in his opposition to this legislation, the American people, thank God, will have a chance this November to elect a new Senate that will move this country in a dramatically different direction.

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. 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.

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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ADVANCED GEOTHERMAL INNOVATION LEADERSHIP ACT OF 2019—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2657, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows: