

Democrats are allowed to have an opinion.

Day after day, they have stonewalled the President's team. Day by day, they have tried to invent new euphemisms to create the illusion of progress. Yesterday's contribution from the Speaker was this: There is now a light at the end of the tunnel, but "how long that tunnel is remains to be seen." Well, there are a lot of struggling Americans who could tell Speaker PELOSI exactly how long this tunnel has been and that it will continue to be endless unless the Democrats let us provide more relief to the country.

Their second week of inaction has brought the country to a second cliff in coronavirus aid. Last week, it was the extra Federal benefit for laid-off workers. This week, it is the enormously popular Paycheck Protection Program that has kept millions more Americans off the unemployment rolls in the first place.

The PPP was written and designed in March by Chairman RUBIO and Chairman COLLINS as Main Street America was hurtling toward a cliff. Their innovative policy has saved small businesses on a massive scale. Hundreds of billions of dollars have gone out in emergency loans to more than 600,000 small businesses.

I hear constantly from Kentuckians whose local businesses and whose jobs would not have survived the last several months without this program. From distilleries to medical device suppliers to domestic violence advocates, the PPP has helped community institutions weather the storm and keep more Kentuckians on the payroll.

This emergency program hasn't been perfect, but it has been a huge, huge success. It has remained a success because, back in April, we finally got the Democrats to let us provide another wave of funding after a pointless delay and pointless brinksmanship—you may detect a pattern here—but now many of these businesses are reaching the ends of their ropes. Their PPP money is dwindling, but since the virus remains with us, even where shutdown orders have been lifted, commerce has not roared all the way back.

One survey found that one in four workers who were hired back and kept getting paid because of the PPP has now been warned he might be let go again, and you can bet that number will increase.

Here is how one business owner explained the looming danger to reporters: "If there isn't another round of stimulus, we'll start cutting past the fat and to the bone, and that's our people, and our people are hard to replace."

Congress should be strengthening the PPP. Instead, the Democrats have put it in jeopardy. This Saturday, August 8, is the official deadline for anyone who hasn't yet gotten a loan to apply. The door closes the day after tomorrow, and many firms that did receive the assistance are getting nearer to the bottom of the well.

This is why the Senate Republicans' blueprint for another major rescue package would put \$190 billion into a second draw of the PPP for the businesses that most need help. The House Democrats' \$3 trillion wish list totally left that out. They ignored the PPP. We want to re-up it.

This is just one of the many ways our serious proposal beats the absurd far-left wish list the Democrats' own moderate Members laughed out of the room. While they focus on unrelated liberal demands, like tax cuts for rich people in blue States, we are focused on serious solutions for the problems facing Americans right now.

Yet, instead of getting serious, the Democratic leaders have chosen, instead, to misrepresent and even lie about what is at stake. The Democratic leader's repeated misstatements about the legal protections that the Senate Republicans and the White House want for schools, doctors, nurses, charities, and employers have earned him "three Pinocchios" from the Washington Post and a "Mostly False" rating from another fact-checker. Let me say that again. The Democratic leader's repeated misstatements about the legal protections the Senate Republicans and the White House want for schools, doctors, nurses, charities, and employers have earned him "three Pinocchios" from the Washington Post and a "Mostly False" rating from another fact-checker. He doesn't even seem to realize that we modeled our medical malpractice reforms on the COVID-related protections that his fellow Democrats put in place in New York.

So this is where we are—another week that the Speaker of the House and the Democratic leader have spent stonewalling the President's team in talks and holding out for ideological pet projects with no relationship whatsoever to the COVID crisis. Now, as a result, struggling Americans are facing another cliff, with another important form of relief on its last legs.

We face a second straight week of political theater from our Democratic colleagues with no result—except more pain for families, more uncertainty for workers, and more evidence to suggest that perhaps the Democratic leaders were never serious about getting something accomplished in the first place.

All across America, small business owners are hurting and hoping the Democrats get reasonable and allow another major package to move forward. Unemployed Americans need these endless talks to finally bear fruit, and so do school principals and working parents and senior citizens and nurses and doctors and university presidents and students of all ages.

That is why I will not be adjourning the Senate for our August recess today as had been previously scheduled. I have told Republican Senators they will have 24-hours' notice before a vote, but the Senate will be convening on Monday, and I will be right here in

Washington. The House has already skipped town, but the Senate will not adjourn for August unless and until the Democrats demonstrate they will never let an agreement materialize.

A lot of Americans' hopes—a lot of American lives—are riding on the Democrats' endless talk. I hope they are not disappointed.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 4461

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. 4461) to provide for a period of continuing appropriations in the event of a lapse in appropriations under the normal appropriations process, and establish procedures and consequences in the event of a failure to enact appropriations.

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

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

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 legislative clerk read the nomination of John Peter Cronan, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The 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 (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, over the past week and a half, Speaker

PELOSI and I have been engaged in serious discussions and negotiations with the White House over another round of emergency relief for the American people. Our motivation is simple: Americans are crying out for relief.

Cases, hospitalizations, and deaths continue to climb. The snowball of economic impacts continue to roll downhill. This morning, we learned that another 1.2 million Americans filed for unemployment—far more than at any time during the great recession that began in 2008.

Our two parties don't agree on many things. That is no secret. The Trump administration has bungled this crisis from the very beginning and even now is careening from one self-inflicted crisis to the next. Democrats believe that Congress has a moral obligation to step into the breach to help Americans put food on the table and keep a roof over their heads, to save our economy from a deeper recession and longer recovery, and to fight this disease with all the resources and wherewithal a great nation can bring to bear.

After the Senate Republican majority failed in spectacular fashion to put together a bill even its own Members could support, Democrats have engaged in arduous negotiations with the White House trying to impress upon them the gravity of the situation. We have made some progress this week but not enough. The biggest reason is that Trump and his aides and his party in Congress are not truly awake to what is happening in this country.

The Trump administration and Senate Republicans have badly mauled the body politic, the American economy, and American healthcare. We Democrats believe the patient needs a major operation, while Republicans want to apply a bandaid. And we will not let them just pass the bandaid, go home, and still leave America bleeding. That is the difference right now on so many issues.

Our Republican counterparts refuse to acknowledge that Americans who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own might need some assistance with rent. The Republican leader warns of an epidemic of lawsuits that hasn't materialized. What will materialize soon is an epidemic of evictions unless we extend the moratorium and pass rental assistance. Between 19 and 23 million households—one in five rental households—will be at risk of eviction by the end of September unless we do something, unless our Republican colleagues wake up.

Our Republican counterparts refuse to acknowledge that State, local, and Tribal governments, which the Trump administration abandoned in the early days of this crisis, might need Federal support to prevent teachers, firefighters, busdrivers from being laid off and public services from being slashed at the worst possible time. Leader MCCONNELL just states that States should go bankrupt. That is not acceptable.

Our Republican counterparts refuse to acknowledge that running an election in the middle of a pandemic is going to be difficult; that State election systems are going to need more resources; and our post office must be well-staffed and prepared to manage an election that will see more voting by mail than any before.

Yesterday, the Republican leader scoffed at the idea of extended enhanced unemployment benefits because it would mean that some Americans without work would be paid more than our essential workers. Conveniently, the Republican leader did not mention that Democrats have proposed for months that we give our essential workers additional hazard pay and that he and his party continue to block it.

If our friends on the other side are finally worried about how little many of our essential workers are making as we are, I would hope they will put their money where their mouth is and support our proposal to give them hazard pay.

When it comes to elections and education, food assistance for hungry children, and, mind-bogglingly, when it comes to healthcare, testing, tracing, and Medicaid, our Republican friends continue to pinch pennies during a national emergency.

Again, this is the reason our negotiations with the White House have been so difficult. The President and his aides and his party in Congress are not even awake to the crisis in our country. President Trump doesn't have a plan, doesn't engage in negotiations, and still manages to undercut the negotiations at every turn.

There is no leadership from the White House at a time of great crisis. Historians will look back and say this is one of the greatest crises America has felt, and the White House is nowhere to be found. It has never happened before.

Way back in March, after we passed the CARES Act, the Senate Republican majority made a dangerous gamble. Leader MCCONNELL said he was putting the Senate on "pause" to see what would happen. Senate Republicans swallowed the President's ridiculous fantasy that the disease would just disappear. Hoping they wouldn't have to do anything, the Republican majority put the Senate on ice for 4 long months—4 months. Only yesterday, Leader MCCONNELL admitted that his delay "allowed us to learn the coronavirus didn't mysteriously disappear."

Look, at this late stage, after months of Republican delay, as the country got worse and worse, after Republicans in the Senate failed to generate a proposal that even their own caucus or President could support, Democrats are now in the room—we are the ones in the room trying to negotiate a bill that will meet the country's needs.

While some of my friends on the other side of the aisle are just looking for an outcome, any outcome, so they

can vote on something and go home, we are not going to agree to an inadequate bill that doesn't address the challenges in our country.

We are not going to give up. We are going to keep fighting until we achieve the caliber of legislation the American people, during this time of great crisis, need and deserve. We are going to keep working until we get it done.

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

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

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, the news this morning about the actions taken by Facebook and Twitter in relation to statements made by President Trump is incredible. We now have a decision by these two major sources of social media to draw down and to remove statements made by the President of the United States on the issue of the national health emergency which we currently face.

They believe—and certainly, on its face, it is clear—that these statements by President Trump misrepresented medical fact in terms of the immunity of children to COVID-19 and the state of play in America when it comes to this pandemic.

The numbers 5 and 25 tell a real story. America has roughly 5 percent of the world's population and, sadly, 25 percent of the COVID infections in the world. How could a great and strong nation like ours have reached this point where this medical crisis has reached a point where many parts of America are facing recordbreaking infection levels?

Part of it has to do with the lack of leadership: a President who has refused to acknowledge experts like Dr. Fauci and others, who, when they say things that disappoint him, are banished from appearing on television with him or making public statements in contradiction of his bizarre point of view. We also know, as well, that the President has downplayed, from the start, the threat of this COVID-19. One of the reasons Facebook and Twitter removed his statements is that the President continues to diminish the severity of this crisis.

We know, as well, that he has failed to tell us the truth and has speculated on medical theories that are just pure quackery. Who can forget the President's famous press conference talking about ingesting disinfectants, his theories about ultraviolet lights, and this hydroxychloroquine fantasy that he continues to enjoy telling the American people? We know, as well, that he has failed to take action when it was needed.

Initially, Governors, including my own in the State of Illinois, were desperate for the equipment that they