

warming at the rate of multiple Hiroshima explosions worth of heat per second—per second. There is not a lot of dispute here either, unless you want to argue with a thermometer.

Ocean warming displaces fisheries, disrupts ocean currents, destroys coral reefs, and depletes the oxygen levels and carrying capacity of the sea. These are the kinds of changes that usually transpire across geologic time. They are happening now.

Ocean warming sends its dangers ashore because that ocean heat energy powers up storm systems. They power up into stronger storms, and they power up faster. We just watched Tropical Storm Laura spin up into category 4 Hurricane Laura in less than 24 hours. As Bob Marshall, the Pulitzer Prize-winning Louisiana writer put it: “High water temperature [is] the crystal-meth of hurricane intensity.”

Warmer seas power up stronger storms, and they power up more storms. The Atlantic has already generated a typical full year’s worth of storms, pumping out about 55 percent more energy than usual into tropical storms and hurricanes. This year delivered the earliest ever C-, E-, F-, G-, H-, I-, J-, K-, L-, and M-named storms—every single one, the earliest of its name.

In 2019, 14 separate billion-dollar disasters struck the United States, and the majority of them were hurricanes. In 2018 and 2019, Dorian, Florence, and Michael slammed into our coasts. Year 2017 brought Harvey, the most significant tropical cyclone rainfall event ever recorded; and Irma, the strongest storm ever recorded outside of the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean, with sustained winds reaching 185 miles per hour; and Hurricane Maria, killing nearly 3,000 Americans in Puerto Rico and laying waste to the island.

Ocean warming is altering basic operating systems of our planet. Physical systems are altered; biological systems are altered; basic features of the ocean are altered; and the change has just begun. Many of these changes are oceanic, but some come ashore. We need to buckle up.

The third ocean alarm bell is acidification. Oceans absorb not just 90 percent of the excess heat; they absorb about 30 percent of the carbon pollution—the excess carbon dioxide from fossil fuel emissions, and they have sucked up a lot of excess carbon. Since the Industrial Revolution, oceans have absorbed about 525 billion tons of CO₂—22 million tons per day. That added carbon dioxide chemically changes the ocean’s pH, making oceans more acidic. It looks like the oceans are acidifying at their fastest rate in at least 50 million years. As with warming and sea level rise, the rate of acidification is accelerating. Again, there is no real dispute; pH testing is pretty reliable stuff.

A new Texas A&M study shows carbon dioxide levels rising at alarming rates in the Gulf of Mexico—bad news

for shrimp, coral, and other marine life that are highly sensitive to acidity. Texas A&M warns of the acidification threat to the gulf’s commercial fisheries, worth roughly \$1 billion per year.

The Woods Hole Institute made startling findings about acidification of coral reefs triggering a kind of osteoporosis for coral, hampering the organism’s ability to grow skeletons. Reefs, of course, are the nurseries of the sea. Without coral reefs, marine biodiversity plummets and our oceans become unrecognizable.

The University of Alaska has an entire ocean acidification research center because of the dangers to Alaskan fisheries. The lowly pteropod is a base species along the northern Pacific coast. It is damaged in acidified seas, and no one quite knows what becomes of that ocean food chain when a foundation species like the pteropod collapses. We know it is not good.

All of these warnings are stark. Our oceans are in crisis. Our natural world hurdles toward a point of no return. Meanwhile, the fossil fuel industry keeps deploying lies and political influence in a carefully orchestrated covert operation run against our own government.

The fossil fuel industry’s menacing climate denial apparatus has captured one of America’s major political parties. In the wake of Citizens United, fossil fuel dark money has so thoroughly corrupted American politics that Congress has lost an entire decade—the lost decade—to industry mischief. Even today, we still fritter and dawdle.

Eventually, we will see the full contours of the covert operation the fossil fuel industry has run against us as if we were an enemy nation. One day will come a full accounting of this industry’s wanton deception of the American people. One day we will see just how much money this industry paid for its malign influence and who accepted that money and denied the science and ignored the problem. History will judge those involved harshly, and deservedly so. It is a crime in progress against our own children and the world they will inhabit.

After the lost decade of Citizens United, time is short to heed the warnings of our oceans and end the fossil fuel pollution that threatens them. It is truly getting to be now or never.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

REMEMBERING JIM THOMPSON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in 1978, I was the Democratic nominee for Lieutenant Governor of Illinois, running with Michael Bakalis, the Democratic nominee for governor. We squared off against a ticket headed by six-foot-six Governor Big Jim Thompson. Big Jim was 40 years old and a relatively new Governor, only elected 2 years earlier. Bakalis and I were underdogs, but we were hopeful. We shouldn’t have been.

Our fate was sealed when Jim and Jayne were joined by their beautiful daughter Samantha right after Labor Day. Election day came, and we were clobbered. We found out what many Democrats would learn over the years. Big Jim was hard as hell to beat. Why? He may have campaigned as a partisan, but he governed in bipartisanship. His talent for working to get things done helped make him the longest serving Governor in Illinois history.

Last month, Jim passed away. I was honored to call him a friend and, today, I would like to pay tribute to his life.

James Robert Thompson, Jr. was born on the West Side of Chicago in 1936. Jim was known to be shy but ambitious. He listed his ambition as “President-Politician” in his yearbook. In one classmate’s yearbook, he wrote “Jim Thompson, Pres. of U.S. 1984–1992.”

Jim attended the University of Illinois at its campus on Navy Pier in Chicago. He transferred to Washington University in St. Louis in his junior year and attended law school at Northwestern in 1959.

In 1961, Jim worked for the Cook County State’s attorney and argued two cases before the United States Supreme Court. He also joined Northwestern University Law School as an assistant professor.

For 5 years, Jim taught at Northwestern, inspiring many students to pursue criminal law. In 1969, he became the head of the criminal division of the U.S. Attorney’s office. As fate would have it, he was the lecturer on criminal procedure in my bar review course. In 1971, President Richard Nixon appointed him to be the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois.

At the age of 35, Jim was a crusader against corruption in both parties, leading investigations against Chicago aldermen and Vice President Spiro Agnew. His efforts made him look like a political outsider—just what Illinois

was looking for in a Governor. Jim decided to run for Governor in the 1976 election. During that campaign, he married his wife Jayne.

He won the gubernatorial race as the first candidate in the State ever to garner 3 million votes. Though he would have a close election in 1982, Big Jim never lost a race.

As Governor, he accomplished a lot of good for the State of Illinois. He spurred the construction of more highways than any other Governor. His "Build Illinois" plan launched a \$2.3 billion infrastructure effort that helped turn the State into a national leader in economic development, historic preservation, and environmental protection.

There are too many projects to name that Jim championed through the State legislature. He helped bring about Navy Pier's renovation, making it the State's top tourist destination. When the Chicago White Sox were on the verge of leaving Chicago for Florida, he fought hard to keep them. Jim was working the votes well into the night, and the White Sox got their new stadium. He supported the legislation that paved the way for the Chicago Bulls' arena, the United Center.

When Republicans in the Illinois House sought to make Illinois a right-to-work State, Jim called local beer distributors in Springfield and had them set up on the lawn of the Governor's mansion, where he invited protesting labor members to have a drink. The right-to-work legislation never passed.

In 1989, Jim decided against running for a fifth term. He had guided the State through a recession and helped rebuild it. He made countless deals with people of both parties. Jim could have coasted on the reputation he had built, but he didn't. He joined the law firm Winston & Strawn, and within 2 years, he was chairman and had made the firm a powerhouse. Jim also continued to serve his country as he was part of the 9/11 Commission, he chaired the Illinois Sports Facilities Authority, and he argued several cases before the Illinois Supreme Court. He retired in 2015.

Jim Thompson never hesitated to work with the other side for a greater good. We were political adversaries, yet we also were personal friends. Sure, we disagreed on quite a bit, but we always worked together for the State of Illinois. Loretta and I send our thoughts and prayers to Jayne and their daughter Samantha.

BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise to submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report for September 2020. This is my third scorekeeping report since I filed the deemed budget resolution for fiscal year 2021 on May 4, 2020, as required by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019, BBA19. The report compares current-law levels of spending and revenues with the amounts agreed

to in BBA19. In the Senate, this information is used to determine whether budgetary points of order lie against pending legislation. The Republican staff of the Budget Committee and the Congressional Budget Office prepared this report pursuant to section 308(b) of the Congressional Budget Act. The information included in this report is current through September 4, 2020.

Since I filed the last scorekeeping report on July 23, 2020, two measures with significant enforceable budgetary effects have been enacted. The first measure, the Great American Outdoors Act, P.L. 116-152, established a National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund to address deferred maintenance on Federal lands and provided \$900 million per year in permanent, mandatory funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. CBO estimated this legislation, which passed the Senate by a vote of 73-25, would increase the deficit by \$17.3 billion over the fiscal year 2021-2030 period. The second measure, the Ryan Kules and Paul Benne Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2019, P.L. 116-154, modified certain veteran housing and education benefits. CBO estimated that this legislation would increase direct spending in the near term but would ultimately be offset over the fiscal year 2020-2030 window.

Budget Committee Republican staff prepared Tables A-G.

Table A provides the amount by which each Senate authorizing committee exceeds or falls below its allocations for budget authority and outlays under the fiscal year 2020 and fiscal year 2021 deemed budget resolutions. This information is used for enforcing committee allocations pursuant to section 302 of the CBA. Compliance remains substantively unchanged since my last report, with the exception of the Energy and Natural Resources and Veterans' Affairs Committees. The enactment of the Great American Outdoors Act has caused significant violations of ENR's allocations provided in the fiscal year 2021 deemed budget. Enactment of P.L. 116-154 caused violations in the fiscal year 2020 and fiscal year 2021 windows for the Veterans' Affairs Committee, which were then mitigated by deficit reduction in the out-years.

Tables B-G, which track spending related to the appropriations process, remain unchanged from my last report.

In addition to the tables provided by Budget Committee Republican staff, I am submitting CBO tables which I will use to enforce budget totals approved by Congress.

Because legislation can still be enacted that would have an effect on fiscal year 2020, CBO provided spending and revenue reports for both fiscal year 2020 and fiscal year 2021. This information is used to enforce aggregate spending levels in budget resolutions under CBA section 311. CBO's estimates show that current levels of spending for fiscal year 2020 exceed amounts in last

year's budget resolution by \$68.6 billion in budget authority and \$55.1 billion in outlays 2020—Tables 1-2. Revenues are \$114.8 billion below the revenue floor. Additionally, Social Security outlays are at the levels assumed for 2020, while Social Security revenues are \$16 million above the levels assumed in budget.

For fiscal year 2021, the current law levels are \$1,177.1 billion and \$667.5 billion in budget authority and outlays, respectively, below allowable levels—2021, Tables 1-2. This spending room will be spent down as regular appropriations bills are enacted for fiscal year 2021. Revenues and Social Security levels are at the levels assumed by the fiscal year 2021 deemed budget for this budget year. Over the fiscal year 2021-2025 and 2021-2030 period, revenues are \$5 million and \$28 million, respectively, greater than revenue levels assumed in the deemed budget resolution.

CBO's report also provides information needed to enforce the Senate Pay-As-You-Go—PAYGO—rule—2021, Table 3. This rule is enforced under section 4106 of the 2018 budget resolution. The Senate PAYGO scorecard currently shows enacted deficit increases in every enforceable window. The largest debit on the scorecard is \$17.3 billion over the fiscal year 2020-2030 period.

This submission also includes a table tracking the Senate's budget enforcement activity on the floor since the enforcement filing on May 4, 2020. No points of order have been raised since my July report.

An years in the accompanying tables are fiscal years.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

TABLE A.—SENATE AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES—Enacted Direct Spending Above (+) or Below (-) Budget Resolutions

(In millions of dollars)				
	2020	2021	2021-2025	2021-2030
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry				
Budget Authority	10,430	0	0	0
Outlays	10,430	0	0	0
Armed Services				
Budget Authority	32	0	0	0
Outlays	35	0	0	0
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs				
Budget Authority	169	0	4	21
Outlays	169	0	4	21
Commerce, Science, and Transportation				
Budget Authority	7	0	0	0
Outlays	7	0	0	0
Energy and Natural Resources				
Budget Authority	0	2,820	14,420	19,410
Outlays	0	310	5,870	17,280
Environment and Public Works				
Budget Authority	8,058	0	0	0
Outlays	415	0	0	0
Finance				
Budget Authority	50,913	0	0	0
Outlays	49,452	0	0	0
Foreign Relations				
Budget Authority	2	0	0	0
Outlays	37	0	0	0
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs				
Budget Authority	0	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0	0
Judiciary				
Budget Authority	12	0	0	0