

# REAPPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL M. LYNTON AS A CITIZEN REGENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 87, which has been received from the House.

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

The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (H.J. Res. 87) providing for the reappointment of Michael M. Lynton as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I further ask that the joint resolution be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 87) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

# APPOINTMENT OF FRANKLIN D. RAINES AS A CITIZEN REGENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 88, which has been received from the House.

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

The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (H.J. Res. 88) providing for the appointment of Franklin D. Raines as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I further ask that the joint resolution be considered read three times and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 88) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

## ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, September 14; further, that following the

prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Scarsi nomination, under the previous order; finally, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m.

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

## ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator SANDERS.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

## CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, today as a result of the horrific pandemic and economic meltdown, the American working class is hurting in a way that they have not been hurting since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Tens of millions of our fellow citizens have lost their jobs. They have lost their incomes. They have lost their health insurance. They have depleted their life savings. They cannot afford to pay rent. They cannot afford to put food on the table. And they are scared to death that any day now they are going to get a knock on the door from a sheriff, evicting them from their homes and throwing them and their belongings out on the street.

This is the United States of America, the richest country in the history of the world. None of us—no man, woman, or child—should go hungry. None of us should have to live in fear of becoming homeless, and no one should be denied the healthcare that they need—especially during the worst public health crisis in 100 years. But that is precisely what is going on all over our country as we speak this evening.

Just the other day, National Public Radio, NPR, released a survey on the unprecedented economic suffering facing the American people. That should shock everyone in the U.S. Senate and in our Nation. And here is what that survey found: 46 percent of Americans—over 150 million people—are now experiencing serious financial problems.

Forty-one percent of Americans—over 134 million people—have used up all or most of their savings. Their savings accounts are now depleted. Thirty-three percent of American families have had someone in their household who has either lost a job, lost a business, or has been furloughed during the

pandemic. This is an unprecedented moment in American history, and the Senate needs to take unprecedented action to improve the lives of the American people.

Yet in the midst of all of this pain and suffering, what has the Republican-led Senate done over the last 5 months to address the economic concerns of the American people? The answer is nothing except pass a \$740 billion budget for the bloated Pentagon and take an extended vacation. That is not something that anybody in the Senate should be proud of.

The Senate is now back in session. Senate Republicans have introduced a so-called skinny relief bill that is totally inadequate in terms of addressing the crisis we are facing today. The Senate Republican bill provides nothing for rent, nothing for mortgages, nothing for food, nothing for hazard pay, nothing for healthcare, nothing for public transportation, and nothing to prevent the mass layoffs of teachers, nurses, firefighters, and construction workers that will take place in cities and States as cities and States struggle economically.

In other words, the same Republicans who had no problem voting for a trillion-dollar tax break for the top 1 percent large corporations 2 years ago are now telling 40 million Americans who are struggling to pay for housing that we cannot afford to help them pay their rent or mortgage. The same Republicans who just voted to provide \$740 billion for the Pentagon and the military industrial complex to wage endless wars are now telling 30 million workers who lost their jobs that we cannot afford to continue the \$600-a-week supplement they were receiving in unemployment benefits. The same Republicans who slipped \$135 billion tax breaks for multimillionaires and billionaires in the last coronavirus relief package are now telling 29 million Americans who do not have enough food to eat that we cannot afford to help them feed their families.

But if you are an executive in the coal industry, you are in luck. The Republican Senate bill provides your industry with \$161 million in corporate welfare. That is right. The Republican Senate bill provides no money for working families to feed their kids, no money to house the homeless, no money to insure the uninsured—no money for them—but it does provide \$161 million in corporate welfare for the coal industry during a climate emergency. That may make sense for the CEOs in the fossil fuel industry who are destroying the planet with their product, but it makes zero sense to me.

Further, under the Senate Republican bill, if you are a wealthy business owner who forces employees to work in an unsafe and unhealthy workplace, you are rewarded. The Republican bill will provide you with the immunity you need from lawsuits if your workers get sick or die from the coronavirus,

but if you are an essential worker during this pandemic, you get nothing. The Republican bill does not provide a nickel more for hazard pay or the personal protective equipment that you need and deserve.

Needless to say, I am strongly opposed to the Senate Republican bill and am glad it was defeated earlier today.

Instead of listening to the needs of fossil fuel CEOs, we need to listen to the needs of working-class Americans, the people who are hurting. Instead of providing more corporate welfare to billionaires and large corporations, we need to provide more economic relief to the tens of millions of Americans who are hurting economically.

Nearly 4 months ago, the House of Representatives did its job by passing the Heroes Act, a \$3.5 trillion bill. In my view, the Senate has to stand up and do its job and pass the Heroes Act or a bill that is even better than that legislation.

I received many, many thousands of letters, emails, and social media from constituents in the State of Vermont and, in fact, all over this country about how the economic crisis has negatively impacted their lives and what that \$600 a week in unemployment benefits that expired in July meant to them.

Let me read you just a few of the many thousands of stories my office has received. A constituent from North Chittenden, VT, wrote:

I was laid off in March. Since the end of the extra \$600 I've been able to eat because of the food bank. I wasn't able to get one of my prescriptions because even with insurance it was \$88. I saved as much as I could during the extra \$600 period, but I'm almost out of money now. Literally enough to make it about 10 days. Then what? I'm 65 [years of age].

An unemployed worker wrote:

We can't pay our rent including car payment and car insurance, bills, feed our four kids, or buy necessities. We desperately need the extra \$600 to stay afloat. If we don't get our money soon, we could lose EVERYTHING!

Another unemployed worker recently wrote:

My State benefit was \$127 a week (I exhausted my available State funds last week). My rent is \$1,200 a month. Without further congressional action, I will be unhoused within a month or two.

A constituent from Danville, VT, wrote:

That moment the government stopped the \$600 a week they closed my benefits. I never saw anything other than that \$600 and it went to bills and rent. Now I am behind on everything again.

And on and on it goes. For millions of people, that \$600-a-week check was life and death.

Clearly, in the midst of this unprecedented crisis, the Senate must act and act now, not with a skinny relief bill that does virtually nothing to help working families in their time of need, but with legislation that responds to the unprecedented economic pain and suffering that the American working class is experiencing.

We need to extend the extra \$600 a week in unemployment benefits for the 30 million Americans who have lost their jobs—like the House passed over 3 months ago. This is absolutely essential. During this crisis, it would give families the income they need to live with it. We need to make sure that every working-class person in America receives \$2,000 a month until this crisis is over so they can pay the rent and put food on the table.

We need to expand Medicare to all the 92 million Americans who are uninsured or underinsured. Nobody should be unable to go to a doctor during this crisis because they don't have health insurance. In other words, we need a coronavirus relief bill that benefits the working families of this country and low-income people, not just the wealthy and well-connected.

I know what my Republican colleagues will say—that it is too expensive, and we can't afford it. Maybe, just maybe, our Republican colleagues are so concerned about the deficit they might want to ask their billionaire campaign contributors to pay their fair share of taxes instead of giving them massive tax breaks.

In the midst of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression and the worst public health crisis in more than 100 years, I think most Americans would be shocked to learn that 467 billionaires in our country have seen their wealth go up by \$800 billion during the pandemic. Let me repeat that: 467 billionaires have seen their wealth go up by \$800 billion during the pandemic. In my view, at a time of massive wealth and income inequality and when so many of our people are hurting, it is morally obscene for billionaires to use a global pandemic as an opportunity to make outrageous profits.

Instead of more austerity for the working class of this country, we need to impose austerity on the billionaire class and on Wall Street. That is why I have introduced legislation to tax the obscene wealth gains billionaires have made during the public health crisis. According to the Americans for Tax Fairness, if we taxed 60 percent of the windfall gains billionaires made during the pandemic, we could raise over \$420 billion. That is enough revenue to allow Medicare to pay all of the out-of-pocket healthcare expenses for everyone in America in the next 12 months. Yes, by taxing 60 percent of the wealth gains made by just 467 people during this horrific pandemic, we could guarantee healthcare as a right for an entire year for every man, woman, and child in this country. Billionaires would still be able to pocket over \$300 billion in wealth gains during the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression.

At a time of enormous economic pain and suffering, we have a choice to make. We can continue to allow the very rich to get much richer while everyone else gets poorer and poorer or we can tax the winnings a handful of

billionaires made during the pandemic to improve the health and well-being of tens of millions of Americans.

It is time for the Senate to act on behalf of the working families of this country who are hurting like they have never hurt before and not just the billionaire class who are doing phenomenally well and have never had it so good.

I yield the floor.

## ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020, AT 3 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands adjourned until 3 p.m., Monday, September 14, 2020.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 5:26 p.m., adjourned until Monday, September 14, 2020, at 3 p.m.

## NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

#### *To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. ROBERT J. SKINNER

### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

#### *To be brigadier general*

COL. WILLIAM F. MCCLINTOCK

### IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601:

#### *To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL S. GROEN

### IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14 U.S.C., SECTION 2121(E):

#### *To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. MICHAEL H. DAY  
CAPT. MARY M. DEAN  
CAPT. CHARLES E. FOSSE  
CAPT. CHAD L. JACOBY  
CAPT. CAROLA J. G. LIST  
CAPT. MICHAEL W. RAYMOND  
CAPT. EDWARD M. ST. PIERRE

### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

#### *To be colonel*

PAUL JEFFREY AFFLECK  
JENNIFER M. AUPKE  
BRADLEY C. BALL  
GAVIN M. BATCHELDER  
MICHAEL J. JASON BLAIR  
MATTHEW FORMBY BLUE  
CHAD C. BOARD  
BRIAN LAURENCE BOHLMAN  
MICAELA RAE BRANCATO  
DONALD R. BRASKETT JR.  
RONALD ALVIN BRASWELL  
MATTHEW C. BRENNER  
FREDERICK MICHAEL BROOKS  
RICARDO L. A. CAMEL  
STEVEN LEE CAMPBELL  
JOED IVAN CARBONELL  
KYLE E. CARPENTER  
WILLIAM LAWRENCE CARRAHER  
ROBERT N. CARVER  
JENNIFER WEST CASILLO  
JAMES CHAIKOWSKY  
LARISSA CRAWFORD CLARK  
BRIAN JAMES CLAUS