

and the racist Communist Party in Beijing believes that these men and women are little better than animals and that they can be exploited as slaves. In Xinjiang, cotton is king.

How does Beijing try to explain this away? Well, of course, there are a whole bunch of lies that they try to use to cover it up. According to their propaganda, the Uighurs and other ethnic minorities are lazy people, and they need help to overcome their laziness. They need to learn about work, and they need to be helped out of poverty. These are the sorts of topline versions of their disgusting lies. But they don't really think that anybody is persuaded by these lies. What they expect is that the money will do the persuading for them. They don't think that these lies are ruled out in a way that is going to really be compelling to anyone. What they really expect is that we won't pay attention to where high-quality, cheap cotton often comes from and that we will just look away.

And here is the painful truth: The global supply chains that have benefited from this blood cotton have gotten some really good cotton at really cheap prices. In 2019, an estimated 70 percent of Xinjiang's cotton was picked by hand, making it some of the highest quality cotton in the world and some of the most desirable cotton in any marketplace, and it is incredibly cheap because it is picked by slave labor. Xinjiang produces about 85 percent of China's cotton and about 20 percent of the world's cotton, and it is impossible to separate blood cotton from the small minority that is not picked in these slave fields.

Here is what it means in America and around the world: It means that we are living in a sea of hypocrisy because we have a whole bunch of U.S. companies that celebrate individuality, individualism, make some unbelievably good commercials and talk about the expansion of human potential, at the same time being cosponsors of slave fields. That is what we are talking about here. We can't and we shouldn't simply look away.

The extensiveness of the CCP's forced labor programs are such that many U.S. companies, including at least 82 identifiable global brands, have benefited from the Xinjiang slave cotton labor. Gap and Nike are two of the companies that are most obviously singled out, and the CCP has helped them cut their costs and expand their market access. In exchange, what they ask for is a really polite "see no evil" policy.

The commercials that are aired in prime time at major sporting events in the United States are aired by companies that at the same time say: Please don't ask us about our supply chains. We don't want to have to give any account for that.

These companies spend billions of dollars a year running ad campaigns touting values like self-determination. Yet they are quietly importing Com-

munist values, particularly about the lack of human dignity. We don't want those values imported into the United States. We don't want to look away. We don't want to be people who say "Never again and never forget" and then just casually say "I am never going to notice." We don't want to be those people.

Today, I have written letters to both Gap and Nike asking them to help—asking them to please help make transparent to the American people what they know about their supply chains and how we should clean them up. We need to tackle the problem of this blood cotton from Xinjiang, and we need to give the American public, the American consumer, a transparent look into what these supply chains look like, where they come from, and how much blood they are tainted with.

In the coming weeks, I and others will be reaching out to more companies than Gap and Nike, but those are the two letters I sent today. Americans in government and business and even Americans as we go to the store with our wallets as consumers in the retail marketplace—we need to be aware of what is happening. We need to be a people who believe in defending human rights.

The unjust status quo is very profitable, so many companies are now fighting this change. They are fighting this transparency. As attention in Congress has turned towards supply chain integrity concerns in recent months, companies have begun to deploy high-paid lobbyists on Capitol Hill. Americans who believe strongly in human rights and fundamental freedoms have been justifiably confused about these efforts to weaken legislation that seeks to ban imported goods that are made with Chinese Communist Party slave labor.

Businesses that claim a fundamental respect for human dignity ought to share with their consumers and with their shareholders how they ensure the integrity of their supply chains because, again, 20 percent of the world's cotton comes from this part of China, and 85 percent of that cotton looks like it is tainted by blood cotton.

Companies need to come clean if they have been asked by the CCP to stay silent about the human rights abuses in China. Companies need to reevaluate the costs and the benefits, and the costs are high of partnering with the genocidal regime. They need to do it themselves. These companies need to do it themselves because it is right, and they need to be pushed to do it because it is hard and because the competitive marketplace has many of their peer companies and competitor companies also benefiting from this same slave cotton.

The U.S. Congress has become increasingly concerned about the Chinese Communist Party's pay-to-play shake-down of American companies. There is currently a bill under consideration in this body that forces a long overdue review of supply chains, and there are

going to be many more bills and pieces of legislation like this coming. Companies, even if they don't want to do it for the right reason, should do it for the pragmatic reason of getting in front of this because this attention is not going to go away. The concern in this body and in this Congress about the blood in the slave supply chains in many of these industries is bipartisan.

The United States celebrates the ideals of universal human dignity. The Chinese Communist Party explicitly rejects these ideals. In this ideological competition, Beijing is working to exploit something—they are working to exploit the moral concessions of American CEOs. CEOs and boards, you need to do better. American consumers, you need to ask hard questions. And this Congress needs to do some serious investigating.

American and global companies that find their roots in these freedom-loving worlds and countries and that express public support for fundamental human freedoms that produce their success must act now. There is more to do than maximize the bottom line. That is not the only value. And the Senate is increasingly willing to act to ensure that American companies do not import misguided Chinese Communist Party values to these shores.

Right now, it is too easy, it is too comfortable, and it is too profitable for many American and global companies to simply ignore the evil. We need to make the suffering in Xinjiang known. We need to speak about the Uighurs. These men, women, and children have God-given dignity, and we should not look away.

Americans need to know about this evil so that we can, together, confront it. We need to dismantle Chairman Xi's lies, and we need to make it unconscionable for American businesses to profit from Chairman Xi's injustices.

Mr. President, the report from the Victims in Communism Memorial Foundation released last night about the blood slave labor in Xinjiang can be found on the foundation's website at: <https://victimsofcommunism.org/publication/coercive-labor-in-xinjiang/>.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from Nebraska.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 875 and 881.

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

The clerk will report the nominations.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Julie D. Fisher, of Tennessee, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Belarus; and Jonathan Pratt, of

California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Djibouti.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. SASSE. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Fisher and Pratt nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in 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.

### TRIBUTE TO PAT ROBERTS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President. Senator PAT ROBERTS has dedicated his life to serving the Nation and the people of his home State of Kansas, and I would like to take a moment to recognize his retirement.

During his 40 years of service in the U.S. Congress, Senator ROBERTS has become a leader on agriculture, rural health and education, and defense policy. Senator ROBERTS is the first Member of Congress to chair the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. Through his work on this committee and other, and across Congress, Senator ROBERTS has served with honor and distinction, keeping foremost in mind the interests and needs of Kansans.

PAT has been a true partner on the Agriculture Committee. His methodical approach to bipartisanship mirrors my own efforts when I served a chairman of that committee and worked with Senator Dick Lugar to write and advance farm bills, nutrition laws, and conservation policies. Under PAT's chairmanship, the committee was able to reach a compromise on the 2018 farm bill, allowing for the inclusion of several key policies to enhance rural development, support our farmers, and fund vital nutrition programs. I know from negotiating the 1990 farm bill as committee chairman that reaching a bipartisan and bicameral consensus on such a substantial and sweeping piece

of legislation is no simple task. PAT's leadership through the process showed his deep commitment to providing for the American people.

PAT and I have worked together, and we have traveled together. We often chuckle that there are two bald men named PAT serving in the Senate. While I will miss sharing that chuckle with my friend, I will miss more his partnership and unwavering commitment to advancing responsible policies and practices to support agricultural sectors across the country. PAT and his wife Franki have become friends. Marcelle and I wish them the very best.

### TRIBUTE TO CORY GARDNER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, CORY GARDNER may be one of the younger members of the Senate, but he has brought distinction and dedication to his work on behalf of Coloradans. His entire career has been anchored in legislative work, at the Federal and State levels, first as a Senate staffer and then in the Colorado House of Representatives, before his election to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In both the State legislature and in the House of Representatives, he focused primarily on energy and agriculture legislation. He brought these priorities with him to Senate in 2015, through his work on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and Commerce, Justice, and Science Committees. As a Senator, Senator GARDNER has often worked across the aisle to find common ground and deliver for the people of the United States. One recent example was the enactment of the bipartisan Great American Outdoors Act, which became law in August. This landmark bipartisan conservation legislation permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund, supports and creates countless jobs in conservation and outdoor recreation, and protects our country's natural beauty. Through the negotiation and passage of this bill, Senator GARDNER was at the table, trying to reach consensus and bring about meaningful benefits for the American people. That is no easy task and one which is not undertaken often in the Senate these days.

Senator GARDNER will leave the Senate at the end of this Congress, but I know his dedication to public service will remain. Marcelle and I wish Senator GARDNER, his wife Alyson, and the rest of their family the very best in the next chapter of their lives.

### TRIBUTE TO DOUG JONES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as a nation, today we find ourselves contemplating the key tenets upon which our country was founded: the importance of truth and equality, the pursuit of justice, and the determination of what is right. DOUG JONES has pursued justice and has fought for equality and for what is right for his entire career.

DOUG is one of the most dedicated, thoughtful and decent public servants I have ever had the privilege to know and work with in my time in the Senate. He leaves the Senate having only furthered that record of public service.

DOUG brought with him to the Senate a passion for civil rights and for resolving prior injustices. As U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Alabama, he fought against entrenched racial injustice. He prosecuted the men responsible for the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church; and indicted domestic terrorist Eric Rudolph. In the Senate, he continued the pursuit of justice as a vocal advocate for greater government transparency and authored legislation that has expanded access to criminal investigation records for civil rights cases, helping families and individuals to resolve injustices after decades of inaction.

I am certain that, even as he leaves the Senate, DOUG will continue to represent and to fight for what is right. His has been an important and uniquely qualified voice for justice voice in the Senate these last few years, and I will miss his sound judgment and thoughtful advocacy. I know his long record of public service will only continue. Marcelle and I wish DOUG and his wife Louise and their entire family all the best.

I have great respect for him. He is one of the most impressive Senators I have served with, and I am so proud of all he has accomplished.

### TRIBUTE TO MARTHA MCSALLY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, although MARTHA MCSALLY only joined the Senate in 2019, she has spent decades serving the Nation and the people of the State of Arizona.

She served for decades as a fighter pilot in the U.S. Air Force, in service to our country and to keep Americans safe. Upon her retirement as colonel from the Air Force, she continued her career as a public servant by representing Arizona's Second Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives for 4 years before her appointment to the Senate.

In the Senate, as she did in the House, Senator MCSALLY has fought hard to support veterans and has worked to further the interests of Arizonans. Her sense of duty to her country and to her State allowed her to make important contributions to the Senate Armed Services and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committees.

Senator MCSALLY has also been a "neighbor," with our offices both on same floor of the Russell Senate Building. I thank Senator MCSALLY for her service in the Senate, and I wish her the best in the next chapter of her life.

(At the request of Mr. THUNE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)