

We have heard literally not a word from the White House about this, not a single word from the President about this. I suppose this should come as no surprise. After all, this is the same President who, to this day, refuses to acknowledge that the Russians interfered in our 2016 election even though our intelligence agencies unanimously agree that Russia meddled.

This is the same President who went to Helsinki and, on foreign soil, sided with Russian President Vladimir Putin, a former KGB officer, over the CIA, the FBI, the NSA, and all of our other intelligence organizations.

The same President who spends the lion's share of almost every day criticizing everyone from the National Football League to Greta Thunberg, who is 17 years old, to the Secretary of State in Georgia for upholding the rule of law can't bring himself to utter one word of criticism for Vladimir Putin—the same President who, instead of challenging Putin, proposed creating a joint cyber unit between the United States and Russia. That would be like asking a burglar to design the locks on the front door of your house.

The Trump administration is not known for its consistency, but here is the one place they have been resolute and consistently weak, coddling dictators and abandoning our democratic allies.

As a member of the Intelligence Committee, I can't say for sure today whether this weakness emboldened or enabled our adversaries. We are going to have to study the facts. But the administration's abject fecklessness certainly hasn't helped.

To understand how weak the Trump administration has left us, it is important to appreciate the wreckage of their total war on the Federal Government. They came into office with a promise to dismantle “the administrative state,” but what they ended up doing was dismantling our national defenses.

Over the past 4 years, the administration drove thousands of qualified public servants to the exit, including cyber security experts in agency after agency critical to our national security.

Back in March, I asked the Department of Homeland Security to detail its plans to shore up our cyber security. They responded by telling me that they still had hundreds of vacancies for cyber security.

President Trump eliminated the top coordinator for cyber security at the National Security Council. There is no one, therefore, coordinating our cyber defenses across the Federal Government or engaging the private sector to make sure we are working together to shore up those vulnerabilities.

If you put it all together, we have been left with a gutted bureaucracy without the necessary leadership to respond to cyber threats and espionage in a coherent way. And a few weeks ago, the President fired Chris Krebs, just to

make matters worse, our top Department of Homeland Security official for domestic cyber security—the very person who would be leading our response to the hacks right now.

But he is gone. He is gone not because he did a bad job but because he refused to repeat the President's baseless claims about fraud in the election, claims the President is still making as we meet here tonight more than 6 weeks after the election and 4 days after the electoral college confirmed Joe Biden's election.

In the last few days alone, the President has tweeted at least 25 times about fraud in the 2020 election, something he has completely invented in his mind, but he hasn't said one word about the most far-reaching breach of cyber security in our history by a foreign adversary.

As we meet here again tonight in the land of flickering lights, uncertain whether we will pass a budget to keep the lights on in our exercise of self-government for the weekend, all across the globe there are public servants, the men and women of our intelligence services, who are working to repair the damage that has been done and to keep us safe. They deserve and the American people deserve a President who makes clear that we won't tolerate intrusions like this, a President who rallies our allies to our common cause.

If we have learned anything this year, it is that our government has proven itself woefully unprepared to deal with emerging threats, not only a cyber attack but also a global pandemic. This year has also taught us that the cost of ignoring these threats is much, much greater than the cost of addressing them head-on.

But to do that we need a President who doesn't bury his head in the sand or his face in Twitter, a democracy that can think beyond the next commercial break on cable news, that can put aside festering partisanship and forge an enduring national security policy for the 21st century.

And Russia is not our only concern. I can assure you that China is not chasing the latest controversy on Twitter or cable news. They are building roads and bridges and airports across the globe. They are laying fiber-optic cables beneath the ocean. They are competing with us in space. They are forging new alliances and pioneering new technologies every month. They are making considered choices to shape the 21st century while we are struggling here to keep the lights on.

This lack of concern from the White House about this breach is a dark moment, but soon we will have the chance to take another approach. I hope everyone in this Chamber will seize the opportunity to work with one another to secure the promise of our great country for the next generation and America's role in the world.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motion with respect to Calendar No. 836 be withdrawn and the Senate proceed to the consideration of the nomination.

PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The cloture motion was withdrawn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Charles A. Stones, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.

Mr. ROBERTS. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The question, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Stones nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

## CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. I think that all of our colleagues understand our present situation.

Both sides of the aisle are firmly committed to finalizing another major pandemic rescue package for the American people. Constant discussions have been underway for several days now.

As of right now, we have not yet reached a final agreement, regretfully. I believe all sides feel we are making good progress on a major relief bill that would travel with a full-year appropriations measure.

But, alas, we are not there yet.

Given that, our urgent task is to pass a stopgap government funding measure. There is no reason the Federal Government funding should lapse while we hammer out our remaining differences. We are going to take up the continuing resolution, which just passed the House a few minutes ago on an overwhelming bipartisan basis.

I hope this body will pass it easily and get this measure on the President's desk so Congress can complete our negotiations with no pointless lapse in normal government operations.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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 TODD RUCKEL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, at the end of last month, my friend Todd Ruckel closed out 8 impressive years of leadership as Lewis County judge-executive. This financial consultant turned public servant has given so much to his community. I would like to take a moment today to join Todd's admirers in thanking him for his service.

As a former county judge-executive myself, I know just how close Todd is with his constituents. He hears their stories and has been instrumental in Lewis County's success. It is a difficult assignment but one with many rewards for a job well done. Todd ends his time in office with the respect of his colleagues and the gratitude of the families he served so well. He was even named the Kentucky Emergency Management Judge-Executive of the Year in 2017 for his work to keep his community safe.

My team and I have worked with Todd over the years. In particular, we secured over \$1 million from the Appalachian Regional Commission to upgrade the water infrastructure in Lewis County. It is just a snapshot of Todd's accomplishments for the families who placed their trust in him.

Unfortunately, the pain caused by the coronavirus this past year has led to many challenges for local officials and communities. Todd recognized the danger early on. He took steps to protect families throughout Lewis County. I am proud the CARES Act delivered more than \$2 million to the community, including to support Todd's team.

Although the transition has begun toward new leadership in Lewis County, Todd is still working for Kentucky. He is joining the Kentucky County Judge-Executive Association as its new executive director. Now, Todd can use his talents to help local officials in communities across the Bluegrass State.

I am sure everyone in the Lewis County courthouse is sad to see Todd and his wife Sandy go, but the results of his leadership will remain. On behalf of the Senate, I am grateful for Todd's continued service to Kentucky. We extend our best wishes and congratulate him on an accomplished career for Kentucky.

## TRIBUTE TO BOB HUTCHISON

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, over the course of 40-plus years, my friend Bob Hutchison and his brother Tom built an impressive network of restaurant franchises in Eastern Kentucky. The brothers employed thousands of Kentuckians, believing a firm commitment to their community would bring success. They were right. Bob and Tom recently announced the sale of their 13 McDonald's franchises to pursue new opportunities. On behalf of the families across the region who continue to benefit from their entrepreneurial investment, I would like to

congratulate the brothers on their great achievement.

While many folks are lucky enough to be born in Kentucky, some find their way to the Bluegrass State. As the Hutchison brothers scouted across the region for the right place to open their first restaurant, Bob saw something special in Paintsville. I think they found a wonderful community.

They decided to open their store during the local festival called Apple Days. Some onlookers were skeptical the Hutchison brothers could be prepared for a successful opening during such a high-traffic event. Bob and Tom were undeterred. To put their best foot forward, they trained staff to flip Styrofoam patties in their living room as they prepared for the big day. When the restaurant opened on October 6, 1979, they surpassed all expectations. I have visited them during the Apple Days festival through the years as their restaurant continued to thrive.

Together, the brothers developed a recipe that worked. Their first restaurant connected with customers, and they continued opening more franchises around the region. At each of their 13 restaurants, Bob and Tom made a commitment to investing in their employees and community. They gave many young people their first job, instilling the values of hard work and dedication. Scores of Kentuckians have grown up and achieved because of the brothers' influence. In addition to the McDonald's restaurants, Bob also founded the HUTCH Auto Group and a gasket and supply company in Ohio.

I had the privilege to become friends with Bob as he grew more active in the community. He has promoted our shared values and made extraordinary contributions to a wide range of organizations, including the University of Pikeville, the Christian Appalachian Project, and the Boy Scouts of Eastern Kentucky. Working more than 20 years with the Paintsville/Johnson County Tourism Commission, Bob has helped others see the great beauty and potential of this community in the same way he did all those years ago.

Although Bob and Tom are stepping away from their restaurants, they will keep working for Eastern Kentucky's future. I am grateful to the Hutchison brothers for their inspiring achievements. Whatever the future holds in store for them, I wish them the very best.

Mr. President, the Appalachian News-Express published a profile on the Hutchison brothers' inspiring career in Eastern Kentucky. I ask unanimous consent the article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Appalachian News Express,  
August 7, 2020]

PASSING THE SPATULA: BOB AND TOM  
HUTCHISON PART WAYS WITH McDONALD'S  
STORES

(By Reagan Coburn)

PAINTSVILLE—Bob and Tom Hutchison, brothers and owner-operators of 13 McDon-

ald's restaurants in Eastern Kentucky, recently announced that they have sold their franchise to Faris Enterprises of Clinton, Tennessee. Tom described the joint decision of the two brothers, stating, "The time has come to turn over the spatula to the next opportunity."

The Hutchison brothers' journey led them from Ohio to the mountains of Eastern Kentucky. Along the way they made numerous contributions to the area through their restaurants, and have given back to the communities in which they have engrained their lives.

The two youngest of five brothers, Bob and Tom were raised by parents who instilled values and beliefs in them to which they credit their successes in life.

"Our Dad had a full ride of a career," said Tom. "He had been in the restaurant business and was with McDonald's. He worked for this group of investors. He pretty much retired, but when he went to McDonald's they knew that we were going to use our father's brain and brawn. The gentleman who was running McDonald's in that division at the time knew our work ethic. He's the one that kept pushing us to come to Kentucky."

"At that time I was 22, Bob was 25," Tom continued. "The youngest franchisees signed on. That was unheard of. But the guy knew our work ethic from our parents. Our father grew up in an orphanage from the age of five until he got out until he got out to marry our mother. A single mother raised our mother after the age of 12. Her father had an early death. So both of our parents were very goal-oriented, stern, family-based and those values were how we were raised."

Tom described the duo as being business partners even as young children cutting grass, shoveling driveways in the Ohio winters and washing and waxing cars. They began working from a very young age. From the age of 9 to 14, Bob delivered newspapers. At the age of 14, both brothers entered the restaurant business with the assistance of their father.

"We knew the restaurant business," stated Tom. "We started at 14 years old. We did management and I got into marketing. Bob did some schooling. The fact is that we knew how to run a restaurant and that it was about people—powering our people with pride. That is what we made as a foundation for building our company."

## GETTING STARTED IN EASTERN KENTUCKY

Making the choice to settle in Eastern Kentucky and open a McDonald's restaurant in a community like Paintsville in the 1970s and 1980s did not come without some reservations and a few obstacles along the way.

"We had several places to go to," described Bob. "Our dad had just retired working with McDonald's—another operator. Then one of his cohorts tried to get him involved with the restaurants and there was no way that we could do that because we had no cash of that means. A fella from McDonald's was very encouraging to Dad about getting into the restaurant franchise. They said, 'You gotta get a McDonald's.'"

"So we came to the conclusion that we can try it, even though we knew we had a short falling of cash." Bob said that his father's cohort stated, "There's this little spot in East Kentucky called Paintsville. We want you to go look at that."

Bob continued, "Mom, Dad, Tom and I came to Paintsville at the McDonald's recommendation. Mom and Tom weren't really on fire in the beginning because it was raining, a two lane road and lots of coal trucks. So we went back and said, 'Aren't there any other areas?' So we went back and looked at three or four other spots in the Ohio area, but for one reason or another, we gravitated back here."

The family returned to Paintsville once again to give the area a second consideration to establish their restaurant.

Bob stated that he loved the area because of the many state parks that were within an hour or so of the town.

"I thought that's the place we need to be. You've got the Daniel Boone National Forest, you've got the Red River Gorge, you've got Fishtap, you've got Dewey (Jenny Wiley). This place was rocking with that kind of stuff," Bob explained.

During their second visit to Paintsville they stayed in the Heart O' Highland's Motel, one of two motels in the town at the time. The family received a knock on the door of their room by a staff member stating they had to leave because the dam at Paintsville Lake was going to break, a historic moment for many in the area during 1978, and that they must evacuate the town.

"Mom said that's an omen, we don't need to be here," stated Bob.

"I was already in the car," Tom joked.

After that debacle, the family once again looked for other locations and stores but they were repeatedly told by their advisor that Paintsville was "where it's at."

"So we came back, but we didn't have the money. We needed \$250,000," Bob said. "The next trip was come back with our newly-purchased dress suits and went to the bank. We went to First National Bank and the vice president was very cordial. We sat down and told him we need \$250,000 and we want to put in a McDonald's. We knew we were in trouble when he said, 'What's a McDonald's?'" So we presented a packet to him of what McDonald's was." After about 15 minutes of deliberation, the Vice President of the bank offered them a mere \$25,000.

Bob stated, "We walked out of the bank. Dad was a chain smoker. He lit a cigarette and as we walked down the street toward the car Mom said, 'No luck there. I can tell by the way you're walking and smoking.'"

Bob said that was the moment when his mother made the switch from pessimist to optimist.

According to Bob, she said, "Now look, there's another bank down there. You guys go down there and find some money."

"So we went down to Citizen's National Bank and were greeted by a very hospitable lady, Nancy Brugh, and we told her what we were looking for," Bob explained.

Brugh seated the boys in the office of Trigg Dorton, an famous local banker during the time. Describing Dorton, Bob stated, "He had his three-piece suit, his glasses and a cigar and introduced himself and sat down."

Dorton allegedly said, "Boys, tell me about yourself. He started with Tom. He said, 'go back as far as you can remember. Tell me about your life,'" Bob stated.

Dorton then asked Bob and his father to do the same.

Bob stated that Dorton was incredibly impressed with their life stories and that Dorton and his father shared a common link—they were both in the Second World War.

"It was the very first time I heard Dad say anything remotely about the war," said Bob. He continued, "He was also impressed that Dad was raised in a children's home. He was impressed that Tom and I started working when we were fourteen."

The following day, Dorton presented the family with a check for \$250,000.

"He was probably the most knowledgeable banker I ever met," said Bob. "Then, of course, his son Dennis Dorton, who just passed, was my second mentor there."

They opened a bank account there, deposited the check, and that was the beginning. Choosing to stay

Tom stated, "By the fall of 1978 we knew we were coming. We broke ground that winter and were open by the fall of 1979."

He continued, "We opened up on Apple Days—right in the swing of things. McDonald's came in and said there's no way you guys can handle opening during the festival. We were doing trainings in our living rooms with Styrofoam hamburgers. We were teaching them service. We had nowhere to train them," Tom laughed. "It really was fun."

"But despite all that, we opened up on October the 6th, during Apple Days, and it went great," he said. "We had high sales and the team pulled together. It was phenomenal. McDonald's was in awe."

Following the opening on the Paintsville store, their advisor in Ohio helped with the banking to open the Hutchisons' Prestonsburg and Pikeville locations.

"Mom said, 'Boys, we're not moving, but sometimes you gotta do things in life you don't want to do to get where you need to go,'" reminisced Tom.

"So we signed the papers—Dad, Bob and I, and the gentleman leaned back in his chair and said, 'Thank God. You guys are the 12th people we've sent down there. Everybody else told us to stick it,'" he joked.

Tom stated, "The beauty of it is, this is where we came. But the most beautiful part of it is, this is where we chose to stay. We had chances to leave. We did Paintsville. Pikeville was our next one in 1982. Goody was two weeks after that. Then we came back in 1987 and opened up Prestonsburg as store number four."

When asked for the reasons they chose to stay here after launching so many successful restaurants, Tom stated, "I think a couple of things. We had people who believed in us—our parents, McDonald's, Mr. Dorton—but we believed in the brand. We believed in McDonald's and we were taught that you have to be entrenched in your communities. We learned that from our parents. We learned to give back. We chose to stay, we chose to be involved and be part of the grain of the community. To us, that's what created our success. We chose to be local and build upon what we had. We knew we had a beautiful garden here, so we just kept cultivating our garden."

#### NOT A 'DEAD-END' JOB

Bob and Tom have given back to their employees and community members in countless ways. Having employed thousands of people over the past several decades, Bob said, "I think we've had an impact on a lot of people. Many people that have come through the doorways of the arches have become successful, reaching and fulfilling their dreams. Our biggest reward is working with people who are a little shy, a little backwards and have self-esteem issues and no confidence. I love to coach people that are in those situations, especially the 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18-year-olds that have never been exposed to a lot."

"Also, every manager that we have working with us now has been promoted within, and that in itself is a success," he continued. Speaking on the work ethic people of Eastern Kentucky, Bob stated, "The people in this area want to work given the opportunity to work."

"I love giving people second chances," he said. "We've got five or six felons working with us right now. We've got several single mothers who have gone through different programs—spousal abuse and things of that nature. It all goes back to their confidence and self-esteem. That's been my mission field—working with people of that nature."

He continued, "A lot of people refer to McDonald's as a dead-end job. It's no dead end job at all. It's whatever an individual wants to make of it. It's whatever they want to do with it. They can create anything they want to. They're their own molder of the clay and it's just a unique thing."

Tom echoed the sentiment, stating, "There's plenty of rewards. Just this week, getting hit up on Facebook by a previous employee who worked with us for six years, who, of course, heard about Bob and I making the change, and there are so many individuals like this young lady who went off to other careers, but what they learned as crew people they've carried into their present fields. McDonald's is not a dead end job. It leads to many opportunities. McDonald's has touched so many lives. We've been fortunate to be and create McDonald's of East Kentucky and create those opportunities."

Bob then spoke of various programs that McDonald's offers their employees to better their lives. He mentioned the McDonald's Archways to Opportunity program, which recently assisted team member Josh Halliday.

He stated, "Through the McDonald's program and through our encouragement, he went to college through the McDonald's program. Now he has a four-year degree with minimal expense to him thanks to McDonald's, Tom and I. He's a rock star and he's our IT guy. He'll be going to HU in the near future and he'll be dually accredited. He can run a restaurant or he can do IT, whatever fits his niche, no matter where he's at in life and whether it's McDonald's of Kentucky and he wants to pack his bags and move west. He is a highly sought after, highly valuable individual."

Tom noted, "The hospitality industry is here to stay. Their training is so intense with management that an individual can get 22 hours of training that can be converted to accredited college classwork. No restaurant and very few businesses have programs remotely like that."

#### GIVING BACK

It is this spirit of giving back that has continued to drive the two brothers over the years, both within their restaurants and the community at large.

When asked in what ways he has enjoyed giving back the most, Bob stated, "One was being heavily entrenched in Boy Scouts of East Kentucky and I got there through the assistance of Trigg Dorton. Trying to keep Boy Scouts alive in East Kentucky and I was on the Bluegrass Council out of Lexington and I took that position to try to facilitate a stronger stance for Boy Scouts in East Kentucky. I left that position two years ago but I'm still considered an assistant troop master and remain active. I try to keep scouting alive in Johnson County."

"The second thing would be the Christian Appalachian Project," Bob said. "I've been involved with them for 20 plus years and that's very rewarding in many ways at the local level and also when we have national disasters such as Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans to see how well the people of East Kentucky gather around and drive down there to help people in dire straits."

"Third, mostly, has been education. Whether it's UPIKE, Mountain Christian Academy when they were around in Martin, or the Johnson County Board of Education. Regardless of which district, this has been my number one thing that I've thoroughly enjoyed. I've had some sort of impact with education through different programs here in East Kentucky."

His brother Tom bragged on him, stating, "'Not being biologically a father, he's been a father to more kids than anyone can possibly imagine.'"

Tom then described the philanthropic efforts that meant the most to him.

"I was on the board of forming Judi's House in Pikeville," Tom said. "The arts was a big thing for me. I work a lot with underprivileged kids, usually under my grandmother's name. I don't put my name out