

next month will be like. We will pray, and we will hope, but I don't know.

We could have stopped that anxiety in June, when the House bill came over here, or in July or in August or September and October and November. We are doing some of it now.

But I ask every Senator to search their conscience. Wouldn't it have been better if all of us from both sides did something and said: Put everything else aside, put aside all the special interest nominations. Put that aside, and let's care for the one special interest we should have and that is the American people—care for those men and women who elected us from either party, who rely on us.

I have never seen this country so split apart or having such fear except for a privileged few, and maybe that includes us. I am not here to represent me. I am here to represent over 600,000 Vermonters and fulfill my oath to the whole country, 320 million Americans. What we should be doing is saying that never again will we let these kind of partisan politics slow us and not allow us to go forward.

We know, and it is easy to say now, we should have taken the bill that came from the House of Representatives last summer and brought it up on the floor. If anybody didn't like it, file an amendment to change it. Vote for it or vote against it. Vote for or against the amendments you might bring up. That is what we usually do. I know how to vote. I voted over 16,000 times. Why don't we just vote? If we had done that this summer, it may not be a perfect bill, but it would be better than where we are. Every Member—Republican and Democratic alike—would have had a chance to bring up their amendment. They could have made their case, either win or lose. We go to the committee conference; we have the bill done.

I say all this not to just be a technocrat of what needs to be done but to say this is how you reflect the needs of the American people.

We faced the threat of Ebola in the last administration. We stood together, both parties. We helped the countries that were suffering from Ebola and, in doing so, we protected the United States of America, and we helped those in this country who might face it. That was a shining moment. That was a moment of America at its best. This is not.

I do hope we can do better next year. I know as senior Democrat on the Appropriations Committee, I will fight to do better. But I also use my voice and what example I might give as dean of the Senate to say to both parties: Here is what we do.

I think of such examples as Bob Dole, one of the best leaders this Senate had, a Republican. He came together with Senator Pat Moynihan, one of the most brilliant Senators I served with, a Democrat. And that Republican and Democrat came together and set aside their philosophical differences, cared

for the country, and saved Social Security.

I could give so many more examples. That was a Senate that acted as a conscience of the Nation, and how did they do that? They appealed to our conscience. I just use that one example because people said that they couldn't possibly do the difficult things necessary to save Social Security. Democrats wouldn't give this; Republicans wouldn't give that. Instead, you had two Senators of conscience who said: We can do it. Let's do it. Let's use our leadership and our conscience to bring others together. And that distinguished the Republican Senator Robert Dole, and that distinguished the Democratic Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and they came together and we saved Social Security.

Those of us in the Senate in both parties who voted for the final package knew we were going to have to vote for some things that would be unpopular with constituencies. But instead of worrying about special interests or single-issue constituencies, we worried about the men and women of our States and what they would face if we didn't come together. And that is what we voted for, and we saved it.

I sometimes say that Senators are merely constitutional impediments to their staffs, but we could not do the work we do without the staff.

I want to thank the staff who worked tirelessly to produce the bill. By "tirelessly," I mean until after midnight many nights and weekends and holidays. When the rest the Senate had gone home, they were still working. I know them. Much of the time, I would be on the phone with them. I would be working with them and, finally, I would say: It is so late. Everybody should go to bed. When I woke up in the morning, there would be an email sent to me at 3 o'clock or 4 o'clock in the morning because they kept on working.

So I thank Chuck Kieffer, Chanda Betourney, Jessica Berry, Dianne Nellor, Jean Taol Eisen, Erik Raven, Doug Clapp, Ellen Murray, Scott Nance, Rachael Taylor, Alex Keenan, Michelle Dominguez, Tim Rieser, Dabney Hegg, and all the staff of the Senate Appropriations Committee on both bills. I would thank Chairman SHELBY's staff: Shannon Hines, Jonathan Graffeo, and David Adkins.

Normally, at this time, Senators might just put these names in the RECORD, but I wanted to say them out loud, on the floor, because they should hear their names said out loud and know how much I appreciate what they have done, not just for the U.S. Senate but for the United States of America.

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. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

ENCOURAGING THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES TO "BUY AMERICAN"

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to encourage all Americans to join the fight to support our Nation and our jobs and stand up against the growing threat of Communist China.

I have been saying it for months: Buying American products is the No. 1 thing we can do to support American jobs and stand up to our foreign adversaries.

There is a new Cold War occurring between the United States and Communist China, and we must be crystal clear about the negative impacts of continuing to buy Chinese-made products.

General Secretary Xi is a dictator and human rights violator. He is yet another Communist leader trying to be the dominant world power.

The Communist Party of China is stripping the people of Hong Kong of their freedoms—as the Presiding Officer experienced when he was over there—cracking down on dissidents, militarizing the South China Sea, supporting Maduro's genocide in Venezuela, surveilling its citizens, and imprisoning more than 1 million Uighurs in internment camps simply because of their religion.

Communist China is stealing American jobs and technology and spying on our citizens.

Is this the kind of nation we want to be sending our money to?

Absolutely not.

Washington politicians have been too concerned with short-term political success and have long ignored the long-term threats of Communist China to our way of life but not anymore. It is time to take action.

Now, more than ever, Americans must remember that every time we buy a product made in China, we are putting another dollar into the pocket of the people stealing our jobs and our technology, denying their people basic human rights and propping up dangerous dictators like Maduro in Venezuela.

We cannot continue to rely on countries like Communist China, which lied about the coronavirus and refused to be a partner in solving this crisis, for critical supplies.

This outbreak has shown why we need to end our reliance on foreign supply chains. As a nation, we need to finally take a stand and demand that Communist China is removed from our supply chain.

I am proud to lead my colleagues in a bipartisan resolution calling on Americans to buy products made in the United States whenever possible.

Buying American is not partisan, and I am glad my colleagues from both sides of the aisle are continuing to

come together to encourage Americans to take a stand.

I know it is not always easy, but it is an important step we can all take at home to support American jobs, American producers, and American manufacturers, while helping build up the U.S. supply chain.

In my State, we take immense pride in products made in Florida. It is a driving force that led to our incredible economic turnaround.

A return to this pride in homegrown businesses and products ensures that America remains strong as the undisputed leader of the global economy.

We all must do our part to support our Nation and make it clear to Communist China that the United States won't stand for their behavior.

I am committed to supporting American businesses over Chinese products. I am urging my colleagues to join me in this effort and pass this resolution today.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 625.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 625) encouraging the Government and the people of the United States to "Buy American".

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Scott amendment at the desk to the resolution be agreed to.

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

The amendment (No. 2726) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: "That—

(1) it is the policy of the United States Government to "Buy American" products for public use when fiscally and reasonably possible, in accordance with the Buy American Act of 1933 (41 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.); and

(2) the Senate supports American manufacturing and strengthening our American manufacturing base.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the resolution, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is, Shall the resolution, as amended, be agreed to?

The resolution (S. Res. 625), as amended, was agreed to.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Scott amendment to the preamble be agreed to, the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, that the Scott amendment to the title be agreed to, and that the motions 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 amendment (No. 2727) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, on July 15, 2019, President Donald J. Trump signed Executive Order 13881 titled "Maximizing Use of American-Made Goods, Products, and Materials" (84 Fed. Reg. 34257), which would enforce the Buy American Act of 1933 (41 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.) to the greatest extent permitted by law;

Whereas, the Buy American Act of 1933 requires Federal agencies to procure materials and products domestically—

(1) when the materials are intended for public use within the United States; and

(2) when the materials to be procured (or the materials from which they are manufactured) are present in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available commercial quantities of a satisfactory quality;

Whereas American-made products are developed under United States' regulations and undergo testing to ensure their compliance with United States' safety standards, which are among the highest standards in the world;

Whereas American-made products are produced by workers earning competitive wages and working in safe working conditions;

Whereas purchasing American-made products supports the producers of those products and their communities;

Whereas, according to the Manufacturing Institute, each dollar spent in sales of manufactured products supports \$1.33 in output from other sectors of the economy;

Whereas, according to the Manufacturers Alliance for Productivity and Innovation Foundation, for every full-time job in manufacturing, there are 3.4 full-time equivalent jobs created in non-manufacturing industries;

Whereas, according to a 2017 poll conducted by Reuters and Ipsos, when buying products, nearly 70 percent of Americans find it important that the products they buy were made in the United States;

Whereas strengthening American manufacturing supports employment in the United States, produces innovation and the seeds for future industries, and supports the global competitiveness of the United States;

Whereas a strong American manufacturing base is an important component in helping to revitalize the United States economy as it recovers from the global COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas a strong domestic supply chain for certain goods and close cooperation with trusted allies can support national security and public safety;

Whereas the global COVID-19 pandemic presented significant challenges for the globally interconnected supply chain of medical products and has heightened the need for supply chain security of a variety of critical materials and products; and

Whereas, regarding the manufacturing of critical medical supplies and products essential to national security, national stockpiles and a healthy domestic industrial base would help handle any future surge in need for these supplies: Now, therefore, be it

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 2728) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: "A resolution affirming the benefits of 'Buying American'".

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 625

Whereas, on July 15, 2019, President Donald J. Trump signed Executive Order 13881 titled "Maximizing Use of American-Made Goods, Products, and Materials" (84 Fed. Reg. 34257), which would enforce the Buy American Act of 1933 (41 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.) to the greatest extent permitted by law;

Whereas, the Buy American Act of 1933 requires Federal agencies to procure materials and products domestically—

(1) when the materials are intended for public use within the United States; and

(2) when the materials to be procured (or the materials from which they are manufactured) are present in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available commercial quantities of a satisfactory quality;

Whereas American-made products are developed under United States' regulations and undergo testing to ensure their compliance with United States' safety standards, which are among the highest standards in the world;

Whereas American-made products are produced by workers earning competitive wages and working in safe working conditions;

Whereas purchasing American-made products supports the producers of those products and their communities;

Whereas, according to the Manufacturing Institute, each dollar spent in sales of manufactured products supports \$1.33 in output from other sectors of the economy;

Whereas, according to the Manufacturers Alliance for Productivity and Innovation Foundation, for every full-time job in manufacturing, there are 3.4 full-time equivalent jobs created in non-manufacturing industries;

Whereas, according to a 2017 poll conducted by Reuters and Ipsos, when buying products, nearly 70 percent of Americans find it important that the products they buy were made in the United States;

Whereas strengthening American manufacturing supports employment in the United States, produces innovation and the seeds for future industries, and supports the global competitiveness of the United States;

Whereas a strong American manufacturing base is an important component in helping to revitalize the United States economy as it recovers from the global COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas a strong domestic supply chain for certain goods and close cooperation with trusted allies can support national security and public safety;

Whereas the global COVID-19 pandemic presented significant challenges for the globally interconnected supply chain of medical products and has heightened the need for supply chain security of a variety of critical materials and products; and

Whereas, regarding the manufacturing of critical medical supplies and products essential to national security, national stockpiles and a healthy domestic industrial base would help handle any future surge in need for these supplies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the policy of the United States Government to "Buy American" products for public use when fiscally and reasonably possible, in accordance with the Buy American Act of 1933 (41 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.); and

(2) the Senate supports American manufacturing and strengthening our American manufacturing base.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. 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. CORNYN. Mr. 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. CORNYN. Mr. President, here we are, the 21st of December, 4 days till Christmas, and Congress is finally getting around to doing its duty on COVID-19 relief, as well as the Omnibus appropriations bill, which will keep the government open and keep the lights on through the end of the fiscal year next September.

I have to editorialize here that I think this is a terrible process. It is a terrible process. I just saw one of the Texas delegation House Members saying: I am expected to review thousands of pages of an appropriations bill and COVID-19 relief bill in the next couple of hours and then vote on it this evening?

Well, we will be in the same posture. As terrible as this process is, it was intentionally created. I am sure that the Appropriations chairman, RICHARD SHELBY, and Leader MCCONNELL would have loved to have had a regular appropriations process to vote out each of the subcommittee appropriations and pass them using regular order, giving the Members of the Congress a chance to offer amendments and maybe improve the bill, but we weren't provided that opportunity because, essentially, the Democratic leader and the Speaker of the House of Representatives understand that this kind of broken process empowers them to the detriment of individual Members of the Congress and to the detriment of the people we represent. It empowers them, not the rank-and-file Members.

So, I believe this is a—and the same thing is true on COVID-19, of course. We passed the CARES Act in March. We tried to come back and replenish some of those funds. We were successful in doing so, for example, in the Paycheck Protection Program, but it was obvious there was more need, and on at least three occasions—maybe four, but at least three—we offered another half trillion dollars in relief, only to be blocked by Democrats here in the Senate.

Speaker PELOSI was candid. She basically said: Well, this is about politics. We don't want President Trump to get credit for Congress stepping up in a bipartisan way to provide relief to the American people in the runup to the election.

So this is where we are. We know what we have to do. We have to prevent the government from shutting down. We know that there is genuine need across the country for more COVID-19 relief, so we need to do that. But I would also point out, we are going to do roughly \$900 billion of an additional COVID-19 relief bill when Speaker

PELOSI and the Democratic leader in the Senate, Senator SCHUMER, turned down a \$1.8 trillion offer from Secretary of the Treasury Mnuchin. So, rather than accept twice as much earlier because it didn't fit their political playbook, now they are accepting half when they realized they have run out of runway.

Well, the monthslong stalemate has finally broken. Yesterday evening, the so-called "four corners"—the Speaker, the Republican leader in the House, the Democratic minority leader here in the Senate, and Senator MCCONNELL—they reached agreement on a bipartisan package of bills to support the American people through the continued fight against COVID-19. And despite my comments about the process and what brings us here with so little time and ability to affect some of the content, I hope this legislation will pass and reach the President's desk in a matter of hours.

I think we could all agree that this bill could not have come soon enough. Since this summer, Republicans and Democrats have been miles apart on the size and shape of the next COVID-19 bill. Democrats, as I indicated, wanted a \$3 trillion bill they called the Heroes Act, while we supported a more targeted approach. That is when Speaker PELOSI uttered those now famous words: Nothing is better than something.

Well, I have always believed that something is better than nothing. But the big-picture disagreements prevented any progress from being made, even though we, by and large, agreed on about 80 percent of what needed to be done, and that is included in the bill that we will vote on here in the next few hours.

Well, after the election, the Speaker and Democratic leader here in the Senate, I guess, decided that they no longer needed to hold the American people hostage because the election had now come and gone. So there were bipartisan negotiations that broke out, which have led to targeted package bills—to a targeted package that could earn the support of both parties and the signature of President Trump. It is safe to say there could not be a more urgent need for action from Congress.

The last several days have proven that we are, indeed, at an inflection point—turning point—in our ongoing fight against the virus. One successful vaccine has already been administered to thousands of healthcare workers across the country. In my State alone, the Governor estimates that a million people will be vaccinated by the end of this month. That is something we should all be thankful for and applaud.

On Friday evening, the FDA authorized a second safe and effective vaccine made by Moderna, meaning that millions more doses will be reaching Americans—in particular, our frontline heroes—in the coming days. These are developments that we have been waiting, hoping, investing, and praying for,

but it is not a silver bullet. We are still battling this pandemic, and it is likely to be with us for the foreseeable future. But the good news is, people who are particularly vulnerable because of their age or underlying chronic illnesses will likely be able to get the vaccine no later than March. Dr. Fauci said that by June, anybody in America who wants the vaccine can get it.

This next phase of our fight will determine how quickly we are able to defeat COVID-19 and regrow our economy. This legislation will clearly help us get there.

First, it will provide the needed support for vaccine distribution. Not only has there been a modern-day medical miracle in developing these safe and effective vaccines, but now the logistics of getting it to 330 million people in America are completely daunting, but it is happening. Millions of doses have already been delivered to hospitals across the country, and in the coming months, tens of millions more will be distributed as we launch this massive vaccination campaign.

While the cost of the vaccine has already been covered, the range of associated expenses that come with it has not been. For everything from transportation infrastructure to deliver the vaccines to ultra-low temperature freezers to store them, to personal protective equipment for our healthcare heroes to safely administer them, those costs have added up and need to be provided for in this legislation. This legislation will, in fact, provide billions of dollars to help cover these kinds of costs and to ensure the race to distribute these vaccines is as successful as the race to develop them.

Part of that is through relief for airlines, which will transport the vaccines to communities across the country. This assistance will enable our airlines to carry out their important role in the vaccine relay race, all while keeping their employees on payroll and preparing for a strong postpandemic recovery.

These two successful vaccines so far are moving us closer and closer to the end of this crisis, but we still have a ways to go, and the American people need and deserve our support in getting there.

Millions of workers have no way to earn a paycheck. Food banks are experiencing Depression-era lines each week. Farmers and ranchers have lost their traditional markets. Small businesses are sinking, and parents and teachers are still worried about a safe return to in-person learning for our students.

This targeted relief package will send desperately needed support to each of these groups for each of those causes. The workers who had the rug pulled out from them earlier this year will continue to receive the federally enhanced unemployment benefits under the CARES Act that would otherwise expire the day after Christmas. And State unemployment benefits will be