

speech has already been done. Books like “When Harry Became Sally” won’t get published anymore. Writers who hold unfashionable opinions that just a few days ago were considered basic mainstream views of a large majority of Americans, may decide to self-censor, stay silent.

The virtual book burning may spread to other companies. Maybe Amazon will put a book burning app on its Kindle so readers can drag books from its catalog into the virtual bonfire.

Political correctness will only grow more oppressive if its enforcers, like Amazon, don’t face some consequences for their actions. Amazon, for instance, makes billions of dollars each year hosting websites and storing data for the government. Almost all of Amazon’s profit is made in these enterprise services, not in its consumer-facing retail business. Those are our tax dollars flowing to a company that uses its power to censor the beliefs of a large majority of Americans. Perhaps it is time for lawmakers to reconsider whether these contracts are in the best interest of our country.

I also note Amazon is the country’s largest bookseller, selling three out of every four e-books in America. It is time for lawmakers to evaluate whether Amazon’s practices are consistent with our antitrust laws or whether antitrust laws need to be updated to address this type of behavior from a monopolistic firm. We better hurry, though, because maybe they will ban all books on antitrust and monopoly behavior before we have a chance to study the question.

I will close by quoting from the book that Amazon banned, which predicted the very events we are witnessing here today:

If trans activists succeed in their political agenda, our nation’s children will be indoctrinated in a harmful ideology, and some will live by its own lies about their own bodies, at great harm to themselves physically, psychologically, and socially. Lives will be ruined, but pointing out the damage will be forbidden. Dissent from the transgender worldview will be punished in schools, workplaces, and medical clinics. Trying to live in accordance with the truth will be made harder.

This is not a fight over hate or bigotry, respect or compassion. It is a battle over truth itself, the truth of who we are as human beings and the fundamental freedom to speak that truth or any other truth without fear.

Throughout our history, Americans have never surrendered to an oppressive tyranny of opinion, whether a majority or, in this case, a small but highly influential minority, and we won’t be cowed in silence today. We will fight for what is true. We will fight for the freedom to say it. No matter what the cultural forces arrayed against us do, we will never back down.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SINEMA). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the Senate returns this week to the business of nominations. Today, the Senate will confirm Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE to be the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, followed by confirmation votes later this week for Merrick Garland to serve as Attorney General and Michael Regan to serve as the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Finally, the Senate will begin the confirmation process for Congresswoman DEB HAALAND before the week is out. She would be the first Native American Cabinet member of any Agency and the first indigenous Secretary of the Interior—a profoundly important moment given the historically troubled relationship between the Federal Government and Tribal nations. Despite Republican obstruction, Representative HAALAND will be confirmed by the Senate to be Secretary HAALAND. I will file cloture on her nomination immediately after my remarks.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

Now on the rescue plan, on Saturday, the American people got to see what a responsive and effective government looks like. A month and a half after assuming the majority, Senate Democrats followed through on our promise to deliver a bold COVID relief bill to help crush the virus, lift this country out of the crisis, and set our economy on a path to a strong recovery.

Earlier today, the final text of the Senate bill was sent to the House of Representatives. Congress remains on track to deliver the American Rescue Plan to President Biden’s desk for his signature before enhanced unemployment benefits expire on March 14.

We said we would do it. We are doing it.

Once President Biden signs the American Rescue Plan into law, it will immediately become one of the most sweeping Federal recovery efforts in modern history. It will help restore Americans’ faith in government at a time when that is sorely needed, and it will deliver more help to more people than almost anything Congress has accomplished in past decades.

Already the positive reviews are pouring in. According to several reports, the bill will help millions of Americans save hundreds of dollars in healthcare costs. Thanks to a historic expansion of the child tax credit—up to \$3,000 per child under 17 for an overwhelming majority of families—analysts predict the American Rescue Plan will cut child poverty in half.

Let me say that again: Analysts predict the American Rescue Plan will cut

child poverty in half. This has been a goal of this country for decades, and now we are taking real steps to accomplish it.

In fact, the Tax Policy Center predicts the American Rescue Plan will boost the incomes of the poorest 20 percent of Americans by 20 percent, including significant boosts all the way through the middle class.

Meanwhile, the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans will receive an income boost of zero—zero percent for the top 1 percent wealthiest Americans.

Let me say that again because this shows who we are as a party here in the Senate and who we should be as a nation. Let me say: A 20-percent boost in incomes for Americans who are struggling the most; zero percent for those who are at the top already, who are doing very well.

Let’s contrast this to the Republican tax bill, which skewed in exactly the opposite direction. If people want to know the difference—the difference in terms of how Democrats feel about whom we should help and how Republicans feel about whom we should help—contrast this bill with the most major accomplishment during the 4 years that Donald Trump was President and it is very apparent.

Back in December, Democrats promised that, if we won the majority, we would deliver \$2,000 checks to American families. That is exactly what we have done. Promise made; promise kept. We helped pass \$600 checks in December and added \$1,400 in the bill we just passed.

Because Democrats kept that promise, Americans are going to receive the help they need quickly. The checks will stimulate the economy, and they are targeted to those Americans who need it the most. It is a promise kept.

The OECD, or the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, projected that the American Rescue Plan could as much as double America’s economic growth this year. As a result, it also revised upward its projections for the entire world’s economic recovery. Once again, the United States is going to lead the way.

And so, because of what the Senate did last week, healthcare costs will go down, child poverty will be cut in half, Americans will receive direct financial support, and the economy is set for an enormous boost. It is a great beginning for a new administration and a new Senate.

And that is to say nothing of the schools that will receive support to reopen faster and safer, the restaurants and small businesses that will receive a lifeline, the millions of recently unemployed Americans who will continue to receive enhanced benefits until Labor Day, and the millions of workers and retirees who will see their pension plans protected.

Of course, one of the most important aspects of all is the support this bill will give to speed vaccinations and expand testing—exactly what we need to defeat the virus.

In short, this is one of the very most significant pieces of legislation to pass the Senate in years. It is broader, deeper, and more comprehensive in helping working families and lifting Americans out of poverty than anything—anything—Congress has accomplished in a very long time.

So I am extremely proud of the bill we passed this week—exceedingly proud. I am exceedingly proud of everybody in our caucus; our committee chairs, whose leadership allowed us to act swiftly at a moment when Americans needed help fast; and the Members, who pulled together and realized no one is going to get everything he or she wants, but the need to come together and get something done when we had no margin for error was wonderful.

I want to thank President Biden for his bold and steady leadership. He was instrumental in putting this bill together and helping to get it over the finish line.

And I am exceedingly proud of the staff, who toiled behind the scenes, who worked incredible hours under incredible stress to prepare, perfect, and pass the American Rescue Plan. The staff are the unsung heroes of this bill. So I want to spend just a moment to sing their praises.

First of all, to all the members and staff of the Senate committees, thank you. I have submitted all of their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to acknowledge their weeks of hard work assembling different portions of the bill, negotiating compromises, writing legislative text, petitioning the Parliamentarian, and managing a colossal amendment process.

To all of the floor staff—the doorkeepers, the clerks, the reporters, the cafeteria workers, the custodial staff, the Capitol Police and National Guard—the entire Senate gave you a standing ovation on Saturday, and you deserved every second of it. Thank you, thank you, thank you once again.

And, finally, I need to spend some time thanking my own staff. I think they are the best staff anyone could ever have. They are amazing. They are amazing. Every Senator believes they have the best staff on Capitol Hill, I guess, but I am no exception. I couldn't do what I do without them. They are amazing. The chiefs who run the show: Mike Lynch, Martin Brennan, Erin Sager Vaughn. The floor staff: the amazing Gary Myrick, Tricia Engle, the whole floor staff—thank you.

And then three names that I have to give a particular shout-out to because you could truly say that without these three we wouldn't have a bill: Gerry Petrella, Meghan Taira, Charlie Ellsworth.

My staff—I would like to brag a little about them if I might. My staff boasts some of the most brilliant legislative minds in the country—folks who know the nitty-gritty of every issue in their portfolio, who fashion solutions to the most difficult problems in the country

and then turn those solutions into action.

And thank you to my executive team, who keeps me somewhat on time and is a tremendous asset to the entire Democratic caucus.

Thank you to our phenomenal research team, ready to supply the right fact at the right moment. You ask them: Look this up, find this out. Boom, the answer appears right away.

To everyone at the Senate Democratic Media Center, the SDMC, who are clipping and editing videos at 3, 4, 5 in the morning; to our amazing press team, who gets the word out so skillfully; our engagement team, who does fantastic work with the groups affected by the legislation we pass; and our entire State staff—I just visited some of them. I just came back from Buffalo and Syracuse—who make sure that our work in Washington always responds to the needs of New York.

I wanted to mention each of these different groups, but in reality they are a team. They pull together, and they are friends as well. They celebrate holidays together, and we share each other's joys and sadnesses in life—a team that works together, helps each other, supports each other, and supports me; a team that gets up every morning with a passion to make the lives of their fellow citizens better. It is impossible, just impossible not to be inspired by them and by that.

So I ask unanimous consent to enter the names of my entire staff into the RECORD because, as I told them on the phone Sunday, even if they do nothing else in life, they have saved by their work many, many lives. They have made the lives of millions—millions—of people considerably better because of their hard work, their dedication, and their faith.

So I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the names of my entire staff.

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

I would like the Record to include the names of my staff who worked tirelessly to prepare, perfect, and pass the American Rescue Plan: one of the most significant pieces of legislation to pass the United States Senate in decades. Their names are as follows:

Abdelhaq, Yazeed, Achibar, Kathleen, Aleman, Jasmin, Armwood, Garrett, Babin, Reggie, Banez, Robert, Barjon, Didier, Barton, Steve, Battle, Sharon, Benavides, Jackie, Biasotti, Allison, Bluiitt, Tinae, Bodian, Lane, Bowman, Quinn, Brennan, Martin, Burns, Caroline, Byrne, Sean, Cardinal, Jon, Cardona, Selena, Carranza, Ramon.

Chang Prepis, Joyce, Charley, Kristen, Cole, Emily, Contes, Helena, Cook, Andrew, Cooke, Dave, Coutavas, Sophie, Daly, Annie, Dayal, Tushar, Deveny, Adrian, Dickson, Jeff, Dirienzo, Lindsay, Donovan, Patrick, Eagan, Ryan, Ellsworth, Charlie, Emanuel, Marissa, Engle, Tricia, Fado, Kelly.

Flood, Sam, Fuentes, Matt, Geertsma, Joel, Glander, Megan, Goodman, Justin, Gray-Hoehn, Hayley, Gutmaker, Joshua, Haberl, Gunnar, Harris, Jasmine, Hawley, Marisa, Hickman, Rob, Housley, Jon, Huus, Amber, Iannelli, Mike, Ileka, Steven, Jackson, Rachel, Jamaica, Jessica, Jean, Mike, Kazibwe, Rodney.

Kiandoli, Cietta, Kuiken, Mike, Lee, Monica, Lopez, Julietta, Lynch, Mike, Magaletta, Grace, Mann, Steve, Mannering, Amy, Marcojohn, Anneliese, Martin, Ryan, Mehta, Hemen, Meyer, Ken, Molofsky, Josh, Moore, Catey, Moreno-Silva, Michelle, Morgan, Rachel, Murphy Vlasto, Megan.

Myrick Gary, Najafi, Leela, Nam, Alice, Nehme, Joe, Nguyen, Alex, Nicholson, Jordan, Nunez, Diana, Odgren, Andrew, Olvera, Lorenzo, Orlove, Suzan, Ortega, Sol, Osmolski, Rebecca, Oursler, Nate, Paone, Stephanie, Patel, Vandan, Patterson, Liza, Patterson, Mark, Petrella, Gerry, Pina, Oriana, Reese, William.

Revelle, Justine, Rivera, Tony, Robinson, Alexandra, Rodarte, Sam, Rodman, Scott, Rodriguez, Crisitian, Roefaro, Angelo, Rosenblum, Zack, Ryder, Tim, Seijas, Nelson, Shah, Raisa, Sharbaugh, Tyson, Sinpatanasakul, Leeann, Skapnit, Amanda, Sledge, Alexa, Smith, Hannah, Sonnier-Thompson, Bre, Spellicy, Amanda, Sundaramoorthy, Dili, Sweda, Emily.

Talley, Hanna, Taira, Meghan, Tam, Catalina, Taylor, Anna, Taylor, Terri, Tepke, Paige, Timothy, Kimarah, Tinsley, Dan, Vaughn, Erin Sager, Velez, Cyre, Virgona, Nicole, Vogel, Kai, Vorperian-Grillo, Karine, Watt, Brad, Watters, Veronica, Weir, Emma, Yoken, Dan, Younkin, Nora, Zeltmann, Chris, Zomorrodian, Reza.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I want them all to know how much I appreciate their work and how much the country does and what a great difference it has made in the trajectory of our wonderful Nation.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 31.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Debra Anne Haaland, of New Mexico, to be Secretary of the Interior.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 31, Debra Anne Haaland, of New Mexico, to be Secretary of the Interior.

Charles E. Schumer, Chris Van Hollen, Michael F. Bennet, Jack Reed, Tammy