

that is President Bush's former Secretary of Homeland Security, not a Democrat.

Well, the Senate is not going to tolerate this irresponsible and unconscionable delay. Despite the tactics from the Republican side, the Senate will begin work on this crucial nomination today, and he will be confirmed.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Now on COVID, Madam President, quickly, this Chamber must also consider additional relief for the American economy and the American people suffering from the prolonged effects of COVID-19. Congress must pursue a bold and robust course of action to defeat the disease, recover our economy, and get our country back to normal. Again, our country requires bold and robust action.

A trio of economic news items this week has underlined the glaring needs in the country.

First, the Federal Reserve issued a sobering warning yesterday that the pace of economic recovery is weakening, and as a result, they decided to leave interest rates low.

Second, the unemployment report this morning reminded us that jobless claims are still extremely high—at or near 1 million per week. That is a lot larger than usual.

Third and maybe most astoundingly, most striking, the Bureau of Economic Analysis this morning revealed that last year, the economy shrank by 3.5 percent—the worst year for economic growth since World War II and the first time our economy has contracted since the great recession.

Given these economic numbers, the need to act big and bold is urgent. Given the fact that the GDP sunk by 3.5 percent last year, we need recovery and rescue quickly. Everywhere you look, alarm bells are ringing—mortgage deferrals are increasing, businesses are still closing, schools are closed in many States, restaurants and bars and travel are in crisis.

Our new Secretary of Treasury, Janet Yellen, who was days ago confirmed with the support of 84 Members of this body and a large majority of our Republican colleagues, just told us that “with interest rates at historic lows, the smartest thing we can do is act big.” That is what Yellen said. “[T]he smartest thing we can do is act big.”

Given these numbers, given the weakening state of the economy, only big, bold action is called for. To cut things dramatically at a time when the economy needs a boost would be irresponsible and hurt millions of people.

We are in the midst of a once-in-a-century crisis. It requires a once-in-a-century effort to overcome it. The dangers of undershooting our response are far greater than overshooting. We should learn the lesson from 2008 and 2009, when Congress was too timid and constrained in its response to the glob-

al financial crisis and it took years—for the economy to get out of recession. We must not repeat that mistake today.

So the Senate, as early as next week, will begin the process of considering a very strong COVID-relief bill. Our preference is to make this important work bipartisan, to include input, ideas, and revisions from our Republican colleagues or bipartisan efforts to do the same. But if our Republican colleagues decide to oppose this urgent and necessary legislation, we will have to move forward without it. We have a responsibility to help the American people fast, particularly given these new economic numbers. The Senate will begin that work next week.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

MARCH FOR LIFE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, normally, today and tomorrow, we would be welcoming many thousands of Americans to the Capitol for the annual March for Life. Every year, the march is one of the most important things that happens here in Washington. Americans of all ages, diverse backgrounds, and many faiths speak up peacefully and powerfully for the most fundamental human right. They make our Nation confront the fact that even the most modest protections for innocent life are still not secure.

The pandemic has taken this year's march online. That is a particular pity, given signs that the new administration may be poised to steamroll even the most limited—limited—safeguards for conscience, let alone for life itself.

The new Washington needs to hear the marchers more than ever. A case in point, the word is out our new administration is planning to rescind the Mexico City policy this very day, run over the consciences of American taxpayers, and put them back on the hook for funding abortions overseas. An administration that wanted to pursue unity might observe that 77 percent of Americans—including a majority of Democrats—and 85 percent of Independents don't want taxpayer dollars to fund foreign abortions.

This and many other commonsense pro-life policies enjoy broad support from the American people, but the

radicalism of the modern Democratic Party seems dug in. Fortunately, political dynamics change, but the moral truth does not. Executive orders can't alter the basic science of human life. So I thank my fellow Kentuckians and all Americans who are participating. We will see you in person next year.

BUDGET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, now, on a totally different matter, the country has waited to see whether the new administration would follow a pro-job, pro-worker, pro-working family approach or give in to the far left and put ideological concerns before kitchen table ones. Unfortunately, we didn't have to wait long.

As recently as October, now-President Biden said: “You can't [legislate] by executive action unless you're a dictator.” Well, in 1 week, he signed more than 30 unilateral actions, and working Americans are getting short shrift.

The President abruptly canceled the Keystone Pipeline, a massive setback for energy security in North America. The Canadian leader called it “a gut punch.” I imagine the 11,000 American workers, including 8,000 union workers who were counting on that work, feel the same way.

We have headed back into an international pact that would have us self-inflict serious pain on working families, has failed to curb China's emissions, and without which our own emissions have been dropping anyway. And yesterday, the administration slammed the brakes on further domestic energy development on the huge swaths of land owned by the Federal Government: no new oil, gas, or coal leases on Federal land.

Our responsible use of these lands accounts for more than a fifth—one-fifth—of our domestic production, about 2.8 million barrels per day. That is almost the equivalent of Kuwait's daily oil production from our Federal lands alone; plus, more than 10 percent of domestic natural gas.

And 2019 marked the first time in nearly 70 years when U.S. energy exports outpaced imports. For the first time since the 1950s, our Nation ran an energy surplus, not a deficit. That has been great news, but some leftwing elites are not happy. The sources of this affordable domestic energy are not sufficiently trendy.

As John Kerry explained yesterday on behalf of the administration, he wants the large numbers of American workers in those sectors to find “better choices”—better choices than their good jobs that feed their families and strengthen our independence. Remember, with the pipeline cancellation, the President effectively closed the door on thousands of American jobs with the stroke of a pen.

According to one news report, one welder from Pipeliners Local 798, who had been working in Nebraska, says he has already had to lay off his whole

team before losing his job himself. He said he sat down in his truck and simply cried.

This latest new prohibition will replicate that heartbreak many times over. According to one study, the decision on Federal lands will leave us down nearly 1 million American jobs by next year alone—1 million lost jobs by next year alone.

It is a heck of a way to kick off a Presidency: mass layoffs of our own citizens, and working Americans in other sectors will pay as well. One analysis found this decision could increase household energy costs by almost \$20 billion over the next decade, and President Biden, John Kerry, and the whole gang appear to be just getting warmed up.

Mr. Kerry admitted yesterday that even if the United States somehow brought our carbon emissions to zero, it wouldn't make much difference in the global picture. That is because our competitors, including China, have already gone roaring past us.

But there is one kind of cooling these policies will achieve. They will ice the job market in communities all across America. In the State of New Mexico, 65 percent of oil and gas production is tied to Federal lands. By one estimate, 16,000 jobs will be on the chopping block in that State alone—that State alone—next year if President Biden's ban holds up.

In Colorado, it would cost another 3,000 jobs and more than 40 percent of the State's natural gas production.

As a Kentuckian, I am all too familiar with the way these Democratic policies can hurt communities. Kentucky paid dearly for the first round of these liberal policies under President Obama. We have no desire to be subjected to a sequel, especially when John Kerry says we should take the rate at which coal is already declining and quintuple it.

In her confirmation hearing yesterday, the President's nominee to be Energy Secretary referenced "jobs that might be sacrificed." Yeah, that is absolutely right. Well, she gets some points for honesty. That is what happened the last time these folks called the shots. Jobs were sacrificed, including, ultimately, some of the jobs of the Democratic politicians who backed these policies.

There is a concept in sports that a coach or a manager should never make a decision that will make the opposing team happy. If they are torn about a risky play call or if they are overthinking a pitching change, they should ask themselves which decision their opponents would rather see and do the opposite. Our new administration is failing that test on domestic energy.

China, Russia, and our other competitors must be thrilled, absolutely thrilled that our new government is essentially declaring war on some of our own economic foundations to satisfy a craving for symbolic gestures—will-

fully throwing our own people out of work, reducing our domestic energy security, raising costs and prices for working families—all for no meaningful impact on global temperatures, just to buy applause at those international conferences, where the participants all assemble by private jet.

It shouldn't be this way, not with a President who campaigned on protecting the lunch-pail union jobs that his left flank wants to eliminate. The President was not elected to enact policies that prompt a certain young Congresswoman from New York City to boast online that her radical ideas are shaping his energy policies. The last 4 years proved that growing our prosperity, reducing emissions, and expanding domestic energy are actually not in tension. We can achieve all three.

There is nothing green about a tsunami of pink slips for American workers or carting Canadian crude around in trucks and trains instead of a pipeline. This piecemeal Green New Deal is the wrong prescription, wrong for the environment, wrong for national security, and most of all for the working Americans who will soon be formerly working Americans if this keeps up.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The assistant Democratic leader.

IMPEACHMENT

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, this morning as I came to work in the Capitol, I saw our National Guard troops outside. I wanted to thank them, again, on behalf of the Senate and the people of America for coming to our assistance during the inauguration ceremonies. Some are still on the job, making sure that we maintain order in the streets of Washington, DC, and that we conduct the business of the American people here in the Capitol Building.

I want to thank them again, particularly the 270 National Guard forces from my State of Illinois—I had a chance to meet many of them—sacrificing time away from their families to serve their Nation. It was a job well done.

For those who continue to do the work, we stand by you, and we thank you again.

Heather Cox Richardson does a column each day that is really a source of information that is important. She reminded us in her column this morning

about what happened here in this Capitol Building just 3 weeks ago on January 6. Let me read what she said:

In testimony yesterday, the acting chief of the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington told the House Appropriations Committee that at least 65 officers filed reports of injury after the January 6 attack. The chair of the Capitol Police officers' union . . . put the number closer to 140. "I have officers who were not issued helmets prior to the attack [and] who have sustained brain injuries. One officer has two cracked ribs and two smashed spinal discs. One officer is going to lose his eye, and another was stabbed with a metal fence stake," he said. One officer died of injuries sustained on January 6. Two officers have since taken their own lives.

I want to put that in the RECORD because in a week, beginning with the impeachment trial, we are going to reflect, again, on what happened January 6.

Some of my colleagues, and many people on their side, are saying we shouldn't spend time talking about what happened on January 6. In the words of the former Governor of South Carolina, Nikki Haley, we ought to "get over it"—"get over it." It is hard to get over it when you consider the facts that I just read into the RECORD. For the families of those officers who lost their lives and those who were seriously injured, they won't get over it for a long, long time.

I don't know what the impeachment trial will find in terms of the role of the former President of the United States, but I believe it is an important milestone in America's history for us to stop and recount what actually happened in this building on January 6, where a mob, incited by the President, stormed this Capitol, broke through, smashing windows and doors, and literally took control of this Capitol Building for several hours. Here in the Senate Chamber, we were evacuated. Thank goodness, we returned that same evening to complete our business and complete our work.

There is ample evidence of what happened that day by video, photographs, and testimony. I hope it is part of the record in this impeachment hearing so that this generation and future generations will have no doubt what happened that day.

Already, we have those who are in denial, who are arguing that this was really some far-left group that was taking over the demonstration—a ludicrous argument on its face. And we have many who are in complete denial that it happened or that it had anything to do with rightwing politics. They are wrong. We saw it. We recorded it. We are going to put it, in part, as part of the record so that America knows what happened on that day.

Yesterday, we got a warning that this may not be the end of it, that there may be more activity. Let me say at the outset that I condemn extremism and violence on any part of the political spectrum. But yesterday, the