

this is just another vehicle for the left's wish list.

The most frustrating thing about it is that Tennesseans have repeatedly told me that a smart, targeted plan to fund infrastructure improvements would make a tremendous difference in local communities and in our State. They support that type of investment. They want to see that. Roads, bridges, waterways, highways, broadband, airports, they are for that. What they don't support is an administration that repeatedly promises one thing and then chooses to do the opposite.

Just like last month's over-the-top spending bill, this month's multitrillion-dollar boondoggle isn't just a waste of taxpayer dollars; it is a missed opportunity to rebuild parts of our economy that were struggling to keep up before the pandemic hit.

Here is a number for your talking points: Less than 6 percent. And what is less than 6 percent? That is the amount, that is the percentage of this \$2 trillion bill that actually goes to infrastructure projects—less than 6 percent.

Tennesseans are asking me: How could this possibly happen? We have been talking about having an infrastructure bill now for about 3 years, and you bring a bill forward—the Democratic leadership does—and less than 6 percent goes to infrastructure.

Now, this sounds like a familiar tactic: Redefine your standards, put less than 10 percent of your funding toward your stated purpose, then throw the rest into yet another handout for projects that would not stand a chance. They wouldn't have a snowball's chance of receiving public support on their own, much less 60 votes here in this Chamber.

President Biden's American jobs plan ignores rural Tennesseans who have to navigate flood plains to get to work or to get to school. It bypasses crumbling bridges they can't avoid, but it sure does pay a lot of attention to Green New Deal policies that were non-starters even before Speaker PELOSI lost ground in the House.

Climate change studies and union payouts take precedent over roads, bridges, ports, airports, and waterways. In fact, this absurd scheme spends more taxpayer money on electric cars than on all of those things combined. Yes, you heard me correctly. This so-called infrastructure bill spends more money, more of your hard-earned tax dollars, on electric cars than on all of the roads, bridges, highways, ports, airports, and waterways. That is correct.

Another day, another power grab made worse by job-destroying, corporate tax increases that will put American companies at a global disadvantage. It is no wonder Democrats have been working overtime to stretch the definition of "infrastructure" past the point of reason.

These days, entire White House press briefings rely on the idea that the definition of "infrastructure" will con-

tinue to evolve—as they say, it is going to evolve—to make it include whatever the Democrats decide that it should include. It is a time-honored liberal trick that has run its course.

They can tweet that lie every day for the next 4 years if they choose, but here in the real world, we are dealing with an economy still in recovery, major industries in crisis, and millions of families who are working terribly hard and long hours to just make ends meet.

What we are seeing here isn't just a disconnect. This is an administration attempting to impose their socialist vision on a country that cannot sustain the cost.

To my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, I want to be clear. That vision of America that you have invented to fulfill this purpose does not exist. It is time to come up for air and talk a little reality.

I know it is a popular thing here in Washington to claim that elections have consequences, but on your first day back in power, the Democratic Party got together and marched right across the line that separates consequences from punishment. Punishment, that is what they are all about.

I would also encourage my Democratic colleagues to remember that when they do this, when they put together these trillion-dollar handouts for radical special interests, political pain for their opponents isn't the only result. They are punishing their neighbors, their friends, communities that are in their States. They are making life harder, much more difficult, for local businesses and small business manufacturers, and they are exposing our weaknesses to our adversaries.

I will tell you, if President Biden and the majority leader shove yet another blank check through this Chamber, they are going to find out in a hurry. I really do believe, how little the American people have to give for their leftist agenda.

I yield the floor.

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

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative 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. 55, Polly Ellen Trottenberg, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

Charles E. Schumer, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A.

Coons, Patty Murray, Jeff Merkley, Tammy Baldwin, Elizabeth Warren, Robert Menendez, Richard Blumenthal, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Chris Van Hollen, Ron Wyden, Angus S. King, Jr., Robert P. Casey, Jr., Amy Klobuchar, Christopher Murphy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Polly Ellen Trottenberg, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 81, nays 14, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 143 Ex.]

YEAS—81

Baldwin	Graham	Peters
Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Bennet	Hassan	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Risch
Blunt	Hickenlooper	Romney
Booker	Hirono	Rosen
Boozman	Hoeven	Rounds
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Burr	Inhofe	Sasse
Cantwell	Johnson	Schatz
Capito	Kaine	Schumer
Cardin	Kelly	Shaheen
Carper	King	Sinema
Casey	Klobuchar	Smith
Cassidy	Lankford	Stabenow
Collins	Leahy	Sullivan
Coons	Lujan	Tester
Cornyn	Lummis	Thune
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Toomey
Cramer	Markey	Van Hollen
Crapo	Marshall	Warner
Duckworth	McConnell	Warnock
Durbin	Menendez	Warren
Ernst	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wicker
Fischer	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	Young

NAYS—14

Blackburn	Hagerty	Scott (FL)
Braun	Hawley	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Kennedy	Shelby
Cruz	Lee	Tuberville
Daines	Paul	

NOT VOTING—5

Moran	Murray	Tillis
Murkowski	Rubio	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 81, the nays are 14.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Ohio.

AMAZON UNION DRIVE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, on Friday, Amazon, one of the world's largest corporations, successfully crushed the most recent union drive at one of their warehouses, where workers were organizing for a voice on the job.

Let's be clear: This was never a fair fight.

Amazon is perhaps the world's most powerful corporation. It would not be raking in profits without the hard work and dedication of its hundreds—hundreds of thousands of American workers. Yet Amazon unleashed all that corporate power to fight those same workers.

They harassed employees with anti-union propaganda. They sent misleading text messages, websites, and fliers. Workers reported they didn't even get enough time for bathroom breaks in the warehouse. That is how intense the company's pressure is. And yet, when they are able to use the bathroom during this union fight, even there workers are hit with anti-union propaganda fliers on the stall doors.

Amazon demanded the U.S. Postal Service install a mailbox onsite at the warehouse so they could monitor employees mailing their union election ballots. It is all part of a pattern for Amazon.

In 2019, Amazon fired a Staten Island warehouse worker who called for unionization.

Amazon monitors employees' online communications. Last fall we learned the company planned to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars for new software to monitor "threats" like unions. Amazon isn't alone. This union busting is standard operating procedure for most companies.

A growing number of Americans want to join unions. A recent poll found that about half of Americans would like to join a union if they could. Millennials are the most pro-worker, pro-union generation since World War II. The Center for Economic Policy and Research reported that 75 percent of new union members are under the age of 35.

I talked to one of those union workers at the end of last month. I spoke to Kate from Zanesville, OH, who joined UFCW—United Food and Commercial Workers—not too long ago. We talked about the work she and I and others did to save her future pension in the rescue plan, how her union had helped her learn about retirement security and helped her fight for her retirement security.

So if all those workers, especially young workers, want to join a union, if they want to have a voice on the job, they want to have more control over their work lives, why aren't more union drives successful?

Pretty important question to ask, pretty obvious answer—because corporations have so much power.

One union organizer told a reporter for the Huffington Post:

When people hear there's an election, they think everybody gets to vote, there's a secret ballot, and so on. What they don't understand—

What the public doesn't understand about union elections—

is that the company has access to the workers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and has enormous influence over their lives.

If they care to use that influence, and so often they do, here is what he said:

They can threaten. They can give a raise. They can demote. They can grant favors.

Or they cannot grant favors.

Every worker knows that.

This is what workers organizing are up against. There is nothing close, nothing at all resembling a level playing field for American workers.

That is why we need the PRO Act, Protecting the Right to Organize Act.

It is a comprehensive overhaul of our labor laws to protect workers' right to stand together and to bargain for fair wages and better benefits and safer workplaces.

It would level the playing field and finally, finally give workers a fighting chance against corporate union-busting tactics like we saw from Amazon.

We know what has happened in this country. We know we have seen—we have seen worker productivity go up. We have seen corporate profits go up. We have seen executive compensation skyrocket upward. Yet worker wages are flat.

Passing the PRO Act would strengthen the punishment against companies that violate workers' rights to organize and that retaliate against union organizers.

It would close loopholes that allow employers to misclassify their employees as supervisors and independent contractors to avoid paying their fair share and to avoid giving workers the benefits they have earned and that they deserve.

A union card is a ticket to a middle-class life when you fight for economic justice by making it available for all workers. We just need corporations to get out of the way, to be neutral, to let workers organize and take control over their careers and their futures.

We also need to empower all workers, whether they have chosen to join a union or not.

That means paid family and medical leave for all workers. It means a living wage for all workers. It means retirement security for all workers. It means power over your life and your schedule. It means overtime pay when you earn it. It means healthcare for all workers. It is, all in the end, about the dignity of work.

Remember what Dr. King said; that "no labor is really menial unless you are not getting adequate wages."

When you love this country, you fight for the people who make it work. That is what union organizers do in the face of overwhelming corporate opposition, like the billionaires at Amazon, and it is what all of us must continue to do until all work pays off.

TRIBUTE TO MATT KEYES

Mr. President, I would like to honor a longtime member of my Ohio staff, Matt Keyes. Matt's last day in our office is tomorrow before he moves on to a new opportunity—still in Ohio, still serving the people of my State, still

serving the State that he and I both love.

Matt has been with our office for 7 years, working with Ohio reporters to inform the public, traveling the State with me to hear from Ohioans.

We have been to diners and drive-throughs. We have done press conferences in front of small businesses and schools and bridges. Before the pandemic, we spent hours in crowded union halls.

Matt has earned the respect of so many Ohio reporters. He understands how important their work is to Ohio communities. He understands reporters and their contribution to democracy, something we wouldn't even have had to have bothered saying 5 years ago.

He knows every news source in Ohio. He has built relations with the principled, dedicated journalists who run them.

He has a deep understanding of our State. Matt knows Ohio as well as anyone. He went to college here. He stayed in Ohio. He dedicates his life to making our State a place where other young people will want to stay too.

Some of the most memorable events Matt and I have been to together have been rallies and meetings with workers and retirees around my State, fighting to save their pensions.

It is fitting that Matt ends his time in our office with a huge victory for Ohio workers—literally, tens and tens and tens of thousands of Ohio families benefiting from the work we all did together as activists, that Matt did, that my staff did, the rest of my staff that we did together in the American Rescue Plan to save the pensions that Ohioans earned over a lifetime of work.

Matt got to know these leaders and these activists over the years, people like Rita Lewis and Mike Walden and Dana Vargo.

He didn't just listen to their stories about what it would mean to their families to lose their retirement security; he lifted up their voices. That is what somebody like Matt—that is what Matt Keyes does. That is what good journalists do. That is what good communications people do. They listen to their stories about what this situation means to their families. Then they lift up their voices; they share those stories with the media and with the country. It is how we got Congress to listen. It is how we finally got that done. That is the lesson of Matt Keyes for young reporters, for young journalists, for young communications directors, for young people who want to make a living doing this.

I will miss Matt on the road in Ohio. I know he will continue to serve our State. I know he will continue to fight for the dignity of work in everything that he does.

Matt, we will miss you.