

was negotiated by the Republican ranking member on the House Homeland Security Committee, the committee of jurisdiction; House Democrats accepted every change requested by the House Republican leadership; and the bill received 35 votes in the House and, likely, a lot more if House leadership didn't flip their position at the last minute.

Despite the pressure of Donald Trump to go along with his Big Lie, 35—35—House Republicans voted to go forward. They are brave, should be commended, and it shows that this truly is a national need, a bipartisan national need.

Another Republican Senator, in worried tones, said the January 6 Commission should be more like the 9/11 Commission and be chaired by outside independent investigators appointed by both parties. Hello. I hate to break it to my Republican colleagues, but the legislation passed by the House is modeled after the 9/11 Commission and, you guessed it, would be chaired by outside independent personnel appointed by both parties. They say they want that in the bill. It is in the bill.

So what is really going on here? Why the various, shifting reasons why Republicans can't support a simple bipartisan, down-the-middle, 50-50 Commission to report on a very serious event in our Nation's history?

Well, it seems the real reason has nothing to do with the structure of the Commission, nothing to do with the details of the bill. It all has to do with politics. According to *POLITICO* this morning, the Republican leader, Senator McCONNELL, told his Members behind closed doors that "regardless of tweaks to the bill . . . approving the Commission could hurt the party's midterm election message."

Again, that is a quote from a report in *POLITICO* magazine or *POLITICO* newsletter—whatever *POLITICO* is. Let me repeat that. According to this report, the Republican leader of the Senate opposes any independent inquiry into the January 6 insurrection because he is worried the truth could hurt the Republicans politically.

Look, I am sorry if an independent Commission to study an attack on our democracy isn't the Republican ad maker's idea of a good time. This is too important—too important.

We cannot let the Big Lie fester. We cannot let faith in our elections continue to erode. We must get at the truth and restore Americans' confidence in this beautiful, noble, ongoing experiment in democracy.

The Senate will vote on the Commission. I hope our Republican colleagues rise to the occasion.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING JOHN WARNER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I was saddened to learn this morning that our friend and former colleague, Senator John Warner, passed away last night.

By the time I arrived in the Senate, John was already churning a long wake as one of this body's foremost voices on national defense. As a wartime veteran of the Navy and Marine Corps, he was deeply devoted to the men and women who serve in uniform.

As a proud Virginian, John took seriously his Commonwealth's role as host to massive portions of America's military might, including the largest naval base in the world.

As a former Secretary of the Navy, he brought Pentagon clout and technical chops that would help the Senate play a hugely consequential role in defense policy.

John's career was capped, of course, by years as chairman and ranking member of the Armed Services Committee. But John made an even wider impact. My predecessor as chairman of the Rules Committee was a principled patriot across the board.

He was also a truly old-school Virginia gentleman. John knew a thing or two about horseracing, for example, and that is high praise coming from a Kentuckian to a non-Kentuckian.

Members on both sides of the aisle looked to John as a trusted mentor and friend. Our thoughts today are especially with our current colleagues from Virginia. So many Senators, past and present, knew John very well.

Most of all, we are thinking today of his wife Jeanne; his children, Virginia, John, and Mary; and the entire Warner family. The Senate will keep them all in our prayers in the days ahead.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. McCONNELL. On a completely different matter, today two Senate committees will consider and vote on two very different pieces of legislation.

Over in the Russell Building, the Environment and Public Works Committee just approved a bipartisan bill, led by Chairman CARPER and Ranking Member CAPITO, to invest in better roads and bridges for the American people.

This would be the first major action on surface transportation since the FAST Act 6 years ago. It would raise the baseline funding for roads and bridges to an all-time high. And, as expected, our colleagues just reported this bill out unanimously, 20 to 0. That is legislating done right. Our colleagues are modeling the approach that would let Congress build a successful, big-picture infrastructure bill later this year.

Meanwhile, in the Hart Building, the Finance Committee will spend its afternoon marking up a leftwing, partisan bill written fully within the spirit of the Green New Deal: maximum

pain for working American families in exchange for minimal—minimal—environmental gain.

Under the guise of Clean Energy for America, Chairman WYDEN is leading the charge against the most reliable and affordable ways to power our country.

The legislation he has drafted is full of the sort of policies that would increase the price of gas at the pump, hike the tax burden on independent American producers, of course, killing jobs, discourage the industry-led innovations that have already been reducing emissions without hurting workers, and dragging the United States away from energy independence back toward reliance on imports from places like Russia, Venezuela, and the Middle East.

In exchange, the bill would have ordinary Americans subsidize the lifestyle preferences of wealthy people in places like New York and San Francisco.

So one committee unanimously approved a smart, targeted, bipartisan approach to key infrastructure projects that America needs, and another will consider a partisan descendent of the Green New Deal that would raise taxes, probably raise gas prices, and leave us with a less and less reliable electricity grid.

Really, this contrast is a fork in the road that the Biden administration is facing writ large. Which route to take; a lonely road leading to the far left versus a mainstream, bipartisan road leading straight ahead toward practical policies that make American lives actually better?

The Senate knows how to walk that road. This last highway bill passed the Senate with 83 votes. Just last month, we passed a water infrastructure bill with 89 votes.

If President Biden wants to secure lasting solutions, build a lasting legacy, and improve the lives of Americans in practical ways, he has the map in hand. For the sake of the country, let's hope he and his party decide to follow it.

ECONOMY

Mr. McCONNELL. Now, Mr. President, on a related matter, the Democrats' far-left turn thus far has affected the entire U.S. economy, and it is hitting working families right where it hurts.

In January, President Biden inherited safe and effective vaccines. He inherited a reopening economy and a country that was sitting on more pent-up savings than anything economists had seen in living memory. That was the condition of the country when the President took office.

The Democrats have already dreamt up a massive, record-shattering Washington spending spree. Like one House Democrat admitted way back at the start of the pandemic, liberals saw the crisis as "a tremendous opportunity to restructure things to fit our vision."

The Democrats had already decided to run up the American people's credit cards no matter what. Their first purchase was a \$1.9 trillion excuse for a COVID bill that the Democrats rammed through on a party-line vote. Even liberal economists and even former advisers to Presidents Clinton and Obama cautioned that the Democrats' bill was way larger than the remaining hole in our economy, badly tailored, and might well cause inflation.

So everyone, from Republicans to liberal economists, warned that the Democrats' bad bill could easily cause inflation that would hurt ordinary American families. Well, look where we are today. Where are we today? We just got the most dramatic monthly inflation report in over a decade. Ask any working family about gas prices, food prices, home prices, lumber prices, used car prices. One survey just found that more than 80 percent of American families are literally tightening their household budgets because of the threat of inflation.

Yet the problem with the Democrats' product wasn't just how much credit and borrowed money it flooded into the economy; the problem was also how little of substance American families got for the money. Larry Summers, former President Clinton's Treasury Secretary, put it this way—and this is the Larry Summers who also had a role in the Obama administration.

Here is what he said:

What's striking about [that bill, the COVID bill] is that all of the trillions of dollars—all of it—does not include a penny directed at "building back better."

He continued:

It transfers to state and local governments that don't have any new budget problem. . . . It's paying people who have been unemployed more in unemployment insurance than they earned when they were working. It's giving checks to families in the 90th percentile of income distribution.

That is from Larry Summers. He is a Democrat. He is a friend of the administration's.

The Democrats' hard-left turn has already hurt our economy, but they still seem to think that this massive bill should only actually just be the appetizer. The administration has proposed a total of about \$7 trillion of spending in its first few months in office. That absurdly overpriced COVID package would actually be the cheapest of the three massive bills the Democrats actually want to pass.

For some perspective, about \$7 trillion is considerably more money in inflation-adjusted terms than America spent in fighting and winning World War II. The Biden administration wants to tax, borrow, and print more money than America spent on World War II to finance a grab bag of miscellaneous liberal programs that would further jack up prices on the things families actually need to buy. It took less money to win a global war than these Democrats want to spend on a

hodgepodge of stuff—stuff like electric cars and welfare programs. This is \$7 trillion of mediocre socialism and liberal social engineering. No serious expert thinks this is what our economy actually needs. No wonder Larry Summers says he is concerned that these proposals are "substantially excessive . . . way overdoing the requisite response."

The sooner this administration can get the memo, the more bipartisan progress we will be able to make, and the better off working families will be.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ENDLESS FRONTIER ACT—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1260, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1260) to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Schumer amendment No. 1502, in the nature of a substitute.

Cantwell amendment No. 1527 (to amend amendment No. 1502), of a perfecting nature.

AMENDMENT NOS. 2014, 1710 AND 1911 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1502

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the following amendments will be called up and reported by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN] proposes an amendment numbered 2014 to amendment No. 1502.

The amendment is as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 2014

(Purpose: To express the sense of the Senate on the allocation of Special Drawing Rights by the International Monetary Fund to help other countries procure COVID-19 vaccines and protect against the economic instability caused by the COVID-19 pandemic)

At the end of subtitle A of title II of division C, add the following:

SEC. 3219L. SENSE OF SENATE ON ALLOCATION OF SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHTS BY INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND RELATING TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) it is in the strategic interests of the United States to help ensure that COVID-19 vaccines are available to other countries, particularly poorer countries with limited resources, not only as a timely live-saving and humanitarian measure, but also as the best way to protect hard-fought gains made against the pandemic in the United States;

(2) the people of the United States will never be fully protected against the COVID-19 pandemic until the pandemic is also brought under control through vaccination around the world;

(3) the release of Special Drawing Rights by the International Monetary Fund, as was done after the 2008 global economic crisis, is a no-cost way to help poorer countries procure COVID-19 vaccines and protect against the instability caused by a severe economic downturn;

(4) helping protect against another global economic meltdown by releasing Special Drawing Rights is also a way to help protect United States export jobs at home, and why the move is supported by leaders of United States businesses and labor organizations; and

(5) any allocations of Special Drawing Rights approved by the International Monetary Fund to help with the purchase of COVID-19 vaccines and stem the worst economic impact of the pandemic should include ongoing efforts to discourage countries that are allies of the United States from exchanging Special Drawing Rights for hard currencies with rogue countries and follow-up by the International Monetary Fund to audit how such allocations were spent.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Louisiana [Mr. KENNEDY] proposes an amendment numbered 1710 to amendment No. 1502.

The amendment is as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 1710

(Purpose: To prohibit allocations of Special Drawing Rights at the International Monetary Fund for perpetrators of genocide and state sponsors of terrorism without congressional authorization)

At the end of title III of division C, add the following:

SEC. 3314. PROHIBITION ON ALLOCATIONS OF SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHTS AT INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND FOR PERPETRATORS OF GENOCIDE AND STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION.

Section 6(b) of the Special Drawing Rights Act (22 U.S.C. 286q(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(3) Unless Congress by law authorizes such action, neither the President nor any person or agency shall on behalf of the United States vote to allocate Special Drawing Rights under article XVIII, sections 2 and 3, of the Articles of Agreement of the Fund to a member country of the Fund, if the government of the member country has—

"(A) committed genocide at any time during the 10-year period ending with the date of the vote; or

"(B) been determined by the Secretary of State, as of the date of the enactment of the Strategic Competition Act of 2021, to have repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism, for purposes of—

"(i) section 1754(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4813(c)(1)(A)(i));

"(ii) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

"(iii) section 40(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)); or

"(iv) any other provision of law."

The Senator from Alaska [Mr. SULLIVAN] proposes an amendment numbered 1911 to amendment No. 1502.

The amendment is as follows: