

The Republicans like to make a big thing about the statements from some people about defunding the police. I never supported that, and most of the people I know had nothing to do with it. But here they are defunding the police themselves and voting against the American Rescue Plan.

That plan is going to provide law enforcement more resources. We want that money to be spent properly, and we certainly want law enforcement to discharge their duties in a professional way. But additional resources can be and will be used effectively. I am sorry that not one single Republican Senator voted for that plan. I think it is not defunding the police; it is defending the police with the American Rescue Plan provisions.

President Biden's American Jobs Plan, which we are now going to consider soon, is an opportunity for us to consider \$5 billion to fund community violence prevention programs. I have introduced my bill, the RISE from Trauma Act, which would implement the proposal by funding trusted members of the community to tackle trauma and the pain that is at the root of violence.

Last month, the President announced the creation of a new strike force, to be headed by the Justice Department, that will crack down on illegal drug trafficking in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay area, and Washington, DC. I support this step.

NOMINATION OF DAVID H. CHIPMAN

Madam President, we have before us a nomination. I am not sure when it will be called, but it was a product of our Judiciary Committee. David Chipman was nominated by President Biden, to serve as the next Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Madam President, you know the answer to this question but most don't: When was the last time that Agency had a Director chosen by Congress through the orderly process? Well, it was about 6 years ago. That was the last time. It turned out to be the only time in the history of the Agency.

But why would an Agency of the government go on for years without a duly selected Director? Well, it was an intentional strategy by those gun groups to make sure that this Agency, as important as it is, didn't have a leader, and as a consequence was not as effective as it should be.

David Chipman was born in New Hampshire and has a B.S. from American University and an M.S. from Johns Hopkins. In our committee, we recognized the fact that he had 25 years of law enforcement experience. He is a responsible gun owner himself, and he has advocated for commonsense gun safety measures.

I think he is well qualified to serve as the head of the ATF. He spent decades working in that Agency, including serving as a special agent in Virginia, Texas, and Michigan. He would be the

first former ATF agent to head the Bureau, and this experience has equipped him with the skills he needs.

Chipman would only be the second confirmed Director in the Agency's history, as I mentioned. A lifelong gun owner, he knows firsthand the responsibility of gun ownership and the commonsense safety measures that go hand in hand with it.

He is uniquely positioned to counter a false narrative, pushed by the gun lobby, that he has a radical or somehow contrary to the Second Amendment view.

Chipman's knowledge of firearms and gun policy is unparalleled. He gained his insight not only working in law enforcement but also as an adviser to one of the Nation's top violence prevention organizations.

Congress and the Biden administration must take action to address gun violence in the city of Chicago, in the city of Springfield, IL, and all across this Nation. It is an urgent issue for all of us. That is why we should pick, as quickly as we can, a leader like David Chipman to lead the ATF Agency.

CLIMATE

Madam President, I will conclude by saying that this has been an unusual weather time in our country. We have seen things happening that are unparalleled in history—extreme weather in the Chicago area, tornadoes, to the baking 120-degree heat of the Northwest, to even a warning of a tornado here in Washington, DC. Strange things are occurring.

When you hear about these wildfires in California and Oregon, there is a natural inclination, if you don't live in that area, to dismiss them, to say: That didn't happen in my backyard—not in my backyard. Well, I have to say, we ought to wake up to the reality. Extreme weather and the results of global warming are coming to everyone's backyard. We have to come to the realization that it is time for us to prepare this Nation to turn back the impacts of climate change and global warming. Those fires are burning in California and Oregon, but they reflect the situation which is dangerous for all of us.

We are waiting to investigate and bring in engineering groups with the Surfside, FL, building collapse, that terrible tragedy which claimed, I am sure, I am sad to say, over 100 lives. We think climate change may have had something to do with that. The rising water table and the infiltration of saltwater from the oceans may have caused the decline in the stability of the foundation of that building. We will only know after the engineers can look at it more closely.

In the area of the Great Lakes—we love our Great Lakes—Lake Michigan is one of the most beloved aspects of our State and in the city of Chicago, but 2 or 3 days ago, in the New York Times, there was a front-page story about what is happening with the Great Lakes and the instability of that

region. We are taking it seriously. I am glad to say that President Biden has joined in restoring the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which President Obama began.

The Great Lakes are a great asset, but they are also a great reminder that we all face climate change in our own home areas.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. DUCKWORTH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF JEN EASTERLY

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I rise in support of Jen Easterly's nomination to serve as Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, commonly referred to as CISA.

Before the Senate adjourned for the July 4 holiday, I stood right here and urged my colleagues to confirm her for this vital position. I was disappointed that a Republican colleague blocked Ms. Easterly's swift confirmation at that time, but I appreciate that he has now resolved his concerns and that we can move forward today.

I warned that, without confirming Ms. Easterly, we risked leaving ourselves vulnerable to cyber attacks, and in the 2 weeks since I last called on my colleagues to approve this critical nomination, nation-state actors and criminal organizations have continued their relentless targeting of the United States.

Over the July 4 weekend, we learned that U.S. software company Kaseya was the target of a major ransomware attack that has impacted hundreds and possibly thousands of businesses and organizations worldwide. Days later, we saw reports that a Republican National Committee contractor had been attacked in an attempt to target the RNC.

Unfortunately, these are only the latest of several recent cyber attacks that threaten our government, critical infrastructure, and key industries. These attackers will stop at nothing to infiltrate our networks, and we urgently need qualified, Senate-confirmed cyber security leaders in place to fight back.

With more than three decades of cyber security expertise and service in the public and private sectors, Ms. Easterly is more than qualified to lead CISA. We need her in place immediately so she can get to work with agencies, businesses, and others to recover from recent cyber attacks and to strengthen cyber security defenses before the next attack.

I appreciate that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have withdrawn their objections and that the

Senate is prepared to confirm this highly qualified nominee on a bipartisan basis. I certainly look forward to working with her and with my friends on both sides of the aisle here in Congress to shore up cyber security vulnerabilities and keep American families, businesses, and the Federal Government secure.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination, Calendar No. 176.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jen Easterly, of New York, to be Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate and that, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all without intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Easterly nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, 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.

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

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

CUBA

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, this weekend, the people of Cuba rose up in opposition to their repressive socialist government.

I think it is important to be clear on that point because much of the mainstream media that is reporting on these protests makes it sound as if everything is pandemic related, but what is happening in Cuba is not an economic fluke, and every single person serving in this body, working in the media, and analyzing the policy implications knows better than to say otherwise.

This isn't the pop socialism touted by the American left. It is not fashionable. There is no empowerment or equality in the socialist regime; there

is just starvation, shortages, violence, and failure. For 62 years, the ruling Communists have bled the Cuban people dry, and now armed thugs have taken to the streets to repress the opposition at any cost.

Make no mistake, this is a test for President Biden. He must draw a line in the sand.

I call on my colleagues in the majority and on President Biden and the members of his Cabinet to join me in supporting all who would risk their lives to expose the ravages of socialism in Cuba.

We must lead in discussions with the U.N. and the EU and coordinate opposition to this violence being carried out against the people of Cuba.

We must demand that the Cuban Government allow for a free and open internet and initiate investigations into if and how Havana used technology supported by the Chinese Communist Party to cut off access to the internet just as the protests started gaining mainstream attention.

We cannot stand by while Communist thugs gun down their own people. We cannot let this become another Venezuela.

Just as we stand with the freedom fighters suffering in Hong Kong, on mainland China, and in other socialist regimes around the world, we must stand with the people of Cuba.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Madam President, meanwhile, we are 6 months into a new era in American politics. The Biden administration is still treating government like a graduate seminar, and the American people are still wondering when their President is going to stop catering to the radical left and start doing his job.

As I was back home in Tennessee, I found out many Tennesseans are absolutely disgusted. They have decided that our Democratic colleagues are not serious about doing serious work. Their priorities and the President's priorities have never been further apart.

They are looking at those line items the administration is checking off, and all they can see is what the administration refuses to acknowledge; that there are very real consequences to this out-of-control agenda.

When President Biden killed the Keystone XL Pipeline, Tennesseans did not cheer. All they saw on the horizon were higher gas prices and a vulnerable fuel supply chain.

Not 4 months after Biden signed the Executive order, the Colonial Pipeline hack showed us what can happen when something interrupts the supply chain.

When President Biden opened the border, they knew better than to believe all the hype about this so-called solution to our immigration crisis, and their instincts were spot on. Now the chaos tearing apart communities in the American Southwest is bleeding into communities in Tennessee.

For Democrats here in DC, all of those line items came with zero consequences. Instead of focusing on re-

ality, they are making policy based on a perfect world scenario where consequences are simply collateral damage.

Of course, here in the real world, when you talk about collateral damage, you are really referring to the people who pay the price for all of these absurd policies.

You know, we read a lot in the news these days about what a struggle it is for the Senate majority to get their bills to the President's desk.

No struggle over legislation or pay-fors will ever compare to what you are putting the average American through. If we want to talk about pay-fors, let's talk about how Americans are supposed to pay for gas to get to and from work. What happens when they just can't afford it anymore?

Inflation is already taking a toll on the average family's ability to pay for their weekly groceries. Supply chain problems have made concerns over paying for raw materials like lumber obsolete. There is nothing to pay for.

The American people have lost so many simple things that used to be not easy but manageable. But now, when they ask Washington to shape up and give them a break, all they get in return is the assurance that struggle and loss is all part of the plan.

It is July, and we still haven't seen a reasonable infrastructure proposal. No, instead, what we have is a truly insulting two-bill scheme that Senate Democrats concocted in lieu of a mandate for their radical environmental agenda.

What will the American people get from this scheme? Well, just a fraction of what could be the largest spending initiative in history will go toward the roads, bridges, and broadband connections that people actually need and are willing to pay for.

If Democrats want the more radical line items, they will have to force it through by abusing the reconciliation process. In a sane world, this wouldn't even be a choice. They wouldn't do it because Democrats know that the kind of spending they are talking about will exacerbate inflation and increase the deficit.

Meanwhile, Senate Democrats have all but ignored their duty to keep the country secure. In May, Customs and Border Protection caught more than 180,000 people trying to cross our southern border. Drug seizures were up 18 percent across the Nation. As of the end of June this year, CBP has arrested more than 1 million migrants trying to come into this country. That is right. By the end of June, CBP has arrested more than 1 million migrants trying to come into the country.

This is a vulnerability, and I would ask my Democratic colleagues and President Biden why they are not more concerned about it.

I would also ask why they are not more concerned about the impending collapse in Afghanistan. The dominos are falling. Iran wasted no time stepping in to negotiate a deal between the Afghan Government and the Taliban.