

families, businesses, and workers afloat until the country could reopen. And we have done that. Six months into the Biden administration and Democratic majorities in the House and Senate, the country has stabilized.

This morning—this morning—it was reported that in the second quarter, the U.S. economy grew at a rate of 6.5 percent, erasing all of the losses from the COVID pandemic. It happened a lot quicker and a lot sooner than many anticipated.

Let me repeat that because it is great news. Under President Biden and Democratic House and Senate majorities, the economy recovered so fast this year that we have already erased the losses in growth that we experienced as a result of the COVID pandemic. That is very good news.

It certainly doesn't mean every family is back on their feet yet. It certainly doesn't mean our work is complete. But the American economy is back. It is thriving and set for even brighter days ahead.

Again, elections have consequences. There is such a difference between the bumbling, nasty, divisive last 2 years of the Trump administration and a new Democratic majority in the House and the Senate and a Democratic President.

Vaccines are out there, as we promised to get them. There are still some people resisting taking a vaccine. They should. We have had some resistance even from ideological rightwingers, which is just awful. Vaccines are out there.

Money has been pumped into the economy through the ARP, and things are moving forward, but now is not the time to rest on our laurels. Now is the time to press forward to cement these gains and build on them. We must continue encouraging vaccinations. We must keep a very close eye on the Delta variant and take necessary precautions. But we also must address the underlying structural economic conditions that held back the middle class and those trying to get there even before the pandemic.

The American dream—that if you work hard, you will be doing better 10 years from now than you are doing today and your kids will be doing still better than you—was fading for the last 20 years. If you look at the economic statistics, they show that that dimmer view the American people had was accurate in terms of economic circumstances.

But now we need to get bright and sunny again. We need to return to the bright, sunny American optimism that has been so much a part of our character for more than two centuries. And how do we do it? We don't just sit on our hands. We don't just say: Let businesses take care of it. They won't. They have a different mission.

A massive investment in public infrastructure will create tens of thousands of good-paying jobs. That is just what the doctor ordered. And we need to go

beyond that to restore that bright, sunny optimism. We need to help American families keep up with the exorbitant costs of childcare, healthcare, housing, college, and more. We need to press on and fight to reverse climate change because, as bad as COVID was, if we do nothing about climate change, a few years from now, each year will be worse than COVID, and each year after that will get worse and worse and worse. If we do nothing, people several years from now—even people now will say: Why didn't we do more? We Democrats want to do more on climate. We must.

The numbers show that the American economy has gotten back to where it was prior to COVID. Now is the time to go further and build back even better than before. We Democrats, when we can in a bipartisan way but on our own when our Republican colleagues are adamantly against us, we will move forward on both tracks—both tracks.

I am proud of my Democratic caucus, every one of them voting yesterday for this bill and all pledging to go forward on the second track as well.

CAPITOL SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on another matter, even during normal times, protecting the U.S. Capitol is a difficult job. Millions of people visit the U.S. Capitol every single year. Five hundred and thirty-five elected officials and their staffs work here every single day. To keep the Capitol Complex safe, to keep it secure, we are lucky to have the best of the best.

Our Capitol Police, who stared down a violent mob on January 6, have been nothing short of heroic—heroic. When the smoke cleared after the attack of January 6, they came back to the Capitol and helped piece together what the rioters had torn apart. In the aftermath of that dark day, the National Guard helped keep watch day and night, 24-7.

I walked the halls of this building early in the morning and saw our National Guard men and women, from New York and so many other States, camped out, helping us, wanting to make sure the Capitol was secure. We owe the Capitol Police and we owe the National Guard our deepest gratitude, but we owe them more than just that. We owe them the resources they need to do a very difficult job and to do it well.

Unfortunately, Congress is on the precipice of failing. Due to unforeseen expenses during the pandemic and the toll incurred by the attack on January 6, funding for our Capitol Police, security at the Capitol Complex, even our National Guard, has come close to running very dry.

Already, the Capitol Police has had to delay vital trainings and the purchase of new safety equipment. Soon, salaries, bonuses, and new hiring will be on the chopping block. According to MG Tom Carden, who sent 1,200 mem-

bers of the Georgia National Guard to the Capitol after January 6, his unit is facing “draconian” cuts if Congress doesn't replenish funding before this weekend. We must not—we must not—let that happen under our watch.

The chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator LEAHY, has been working diligently to come up with a bipartisan agreement. Now, Senator SHELBY has joined with him, and they have crafted a \$2.1 billion supplemental appropriations bill to fill the shortfalls of our Capitol Police, our National Guard, and a number of other vital defense operations. It is not everything that we wanted. The House's bill is bigger and broader. But it does fill the need, and we need to fill it quickly.

I want to thank Senator LEAHY particularly for his relentlessness in pursuing this.

I want to thank Senator SHELBY for realizing how important this was in prodding Members on his side of the aisle to move forward.

I also want to thank Senators KLOBUCHAR and BLUNT, chairmen of the authorization committee, the Rules Committee, that deals with these issues. Senator KLOBUCHAR in particular, whose hearings and continued focus on Capitol security helped pave the way for the agreement, deserves our kudos.

Now is the time for the Senate to take up and pass this bill on behalf of the brave police officers and servicemembers who defended this very citadel of democracy.

All 50 Senate Democrats fully support this crucial police and security funding. All 50 Democrats are ready to go. We are eager, insistent we meet our deadline.

Again, Democrats are prepared to vote on this bill as soon as possible. With the cooperation of our Republican colleagues, which we hope we will get—our needs are dire—we could pass this bill today.

The last 6 months have pushed those who protect the U.S. Capitol to the limits. In the face of unprecedented adversity, they responded heroically. We must support them now as they so courageously supported us.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday, I joined a number of my Republican and Democratic colleagues

and voted to begin floor consideration of bipartisan compromise legislation for our Nation's infrastructure.

Our country would benefit a whole lot from some targeted investment in the kinds of real, tangible projects that fit a commonsense definition of actual infrastructure—roads, bridges, ports, waterways, airports, broadband.

A bipartisan compromise to responsibly finance these kinds of investments is guaranteed to be big and complex. It is guaranteed to be the kind of legislation that no Member on either side of the aisle will think is perfect. But it is an important basic duty of government.

I am glad to see these discussions making progress. I was happy to vote to begin moving the Senate toward what ought to be a robust, bipartisan floor process for legislation of this magnitude.

This kind of focused compromise that our colleagues have been hashing out could not contrast more sharply with the multitrillion-dollar reckless taxing-and-spending spree the Democrats hope to ram through on a party-line vote later this year.

As I have said before, the Democrats' spree is reckless on multiple levels. We are all familiar with the staggering \$3.5 trillion bottom line. We all know it would only amp up the painful inflation that is already hammering middle-class families, in large part because of the last partisan deluge of spending Democrats rammed through just a few months ago.

But just as alarming is the parade of leftwing ideas that comprise this mess: turning temporary pandemic welfare payments with no work requirements into a permanent dole, shoving through big chunks of the Green New Deal, government price-fixing that would leave us with fewer new medicines and new cures.

And then there is an effort to further inflame the Biden administration's border crisis with a far-left amnesty. We have now seen the highest unaccompanied child arrivals on record, the biggest month for immigrant encounters in 21 years. This month, total CBP apprehensions for the calendar year are expected to top a million—a million—for the first time in 15 years, and we still have 5 months to go.

So one might think my friends across the aisle would try to avoid repeating the missteps that created the crisis; that they would be careful to avoid doubling down on the perverse incentives generating so much suffering down at the southern border.

But, apparently, Washington Democrats intend to do the opposite. Their reckless taxing-and-spending spree would include an even bigger green light for this crisis at the worst possible time. Under the Biden administration's unenforceable catch-and-release policy, just 13 percent of the 50,000 individuals who have been released into the United States since March have actually reported to as-

signed ICE checkups. So in a sense, either intentionally or through incompetence, the administration is already practicing a policy that amounts to functional amnesty in many cases. What Democrats want now is to make that explicit and, believe it or not, permanent.

They would effectively like our southern border to be even more open than it is now, even during an ongoing public health emergency that has Federal, State, and local officials contemplating new batches of rules for American citizens. The message to Americans appears to be: Put your guard back up, even if you are vaccinated.

But to a jaw-dropping degree, the message to people arriving at the southern border seems to be: Come on in. Even if you are COVID positive, come on in.

CBP data are reportedly showing a huge uptick in positive COVID tests in the Rio Grande Valley sector. That is just one sector, and that is just among whatever fraction of the individuals are actually being tested. And among individuals in ICE custody, apparently one in three—one in three—are declining to receive a vaccine. Yet it seems the Biden administration doesn't consider a COVID diagnosis any reason to make an exception to its catch-and-release policy. Alarming reports of COVID-positive detainees being turned out into Texas communities even have border-State Democrats sounding the alarm.

I hope President Biden is listening. Maybe Members of his own party will have better luck conveying what the American people have known for months: The situation at our southern border is a crisis. It deserves real attention and real solutions, not a reckless taxing-and-spending spree with amnesty policies that would make things considerably worse.

REMEMBERING BOB DOVE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on a completely different matter, for the second time this week the U.S. Senate family must bid a sad farewell to a member of its alumni society.

Only six different individuals have served as Senate Parliamentarian since the position was formally established back in 1935. It is a unique and remarkable position that seems to require unique and remarkable people.

Bob Dove served two stints as Parliamentarian from the early 1980s to the early 2000s. He passed away yesterday at the age of 82 after a long illness.

I was just a rank-and-file Senator during Bob's stints on the dais, but everyone in the entire Senate knew all about Bob's brilliance and his incredible spirit. Bob Dove knew this body's history and its rules to the tenth decimal place.

He was also a constantly jovial person, as approachable as he was smart. His love for the Senate was tangible. It was palpable, and it was not only a

love for the institution, itself, as an abstraction, it was also a love for the human beings who comprised it.

I understand that back in the day, Bob had a go-to one-liner to help himself and his fellow professionals here on the floor through the tougher days. Here is what he said: "You may love the Senate," he would dryly declare, "but the Senate may not love you back."

But a little gruff sarcasm couldn't conceal Bob's true affection. In fact, his enthusiasm for this place was so contagious that it swept up multiple generations of his family. About a year and a half ago, we said goodbye to Bob's daughter, Laura Dove, herself a long-serving, well-loved and widely respected Senate staff leader as she left the post of Secretary for the Majority.

Even now, two of Bob's grandchildren are spending their summers right here in the Senate, helping out in different positions.

Either Bob Dove's brood just cannot quit this multigenerational addiction to public service or perhaps it is the Senate that cannot quit them.

So our condolences and our prayers go out to Bob's wife Linda, to Laura and her brother and sister, and to Bob's grandchildren and extended family.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

INVESTING IN A NEW VISION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND SURFACE TRANSPORTATION IN AMERICA ACT—Motion to Proceed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 3684, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to H.R. 3684, a bill to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk with will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, late last night, there was a vote on the floor which was historic. I will address the subject matter in a moment. But 17 Republicans joined the Democrats in an amazing commitment to building America's infrastructure. I will speak to the specifics of that in a moment.