

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Gregory Brian Williams, of Delaware, to be United States District Judge for the District of Delaware, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 262 Ex.]

YEAS—52

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Gillibrand | Padilla |
| Bennet | Graham | Peters |
| Blumenthal | Hassan | Reed |
| Blunt | Heinrich | Rosen |
| Booker | Hickenlooper | Sanders |
| Brown | Hirono | Schatz |
| Cantwell | Kaine | Schumer |
| Capito | Kelly | Shaheen |
| Cardin | King | Sinema |
| Carper | Klobuchar | Smith |
| Casey | Lujan | Stabenow |
| Collins | Manchin | Tester |
| Coons | Menendez | Van Hollen |
| Cortez Masto | Merkley | Warner |
| Cramer | Murkowski | Warnock |
| Duckworth | Murphy | Wyden |
| Durbin | Murray | |
| Feinstein | Ossoff | |

NAYS—43

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Hawley | Rounds |
| Blackburn | Hoeben | Rubio |
| Boozman | Hyde-Smith | Sasse |
| Braun | Inhofe | Scott (FL) |
| Burr | Johnson | Scott (SC) |
| Cassidy | Lankford | Shelby |
| Cornyn | Lee | Sullivan |
| Cotton | Lummis | Thune |
| Crapo | Marshall | Tillis |
| Cruz | McConnell | Toomey |
| Daines | Moran | Tuberville |
| Ernst | Paul | Wicker |
| Fischer | Portman | Young |
| Grassley | Risch | |
| Hagerty | Romney | |

NOT VOTING—5

| | | |
|---------|--------|------------|
| Kennedy | Markey | Whitehouse |
| Leahy | Warren | |

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). The yeas are 52, the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

(The remarks of Mr. CARDIN pertaining to the introduction of S. Res. 713 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. 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.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CHIPS ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, our economy is as resilient as any in the world. At the same time, we know that it is important to always look to modernize key economic policies, particularly as it relates to fundamental questions of research and development and also production and manufacturing, in order to create high-skilled, high-wage jobs from sea to shining sea.

Now, I come from a State that is a leader in technological innovation, not just for our country but for the world. Oregonians know how important it is to invest and make sure that the United States stays at the forefront of technological breakthroughs.

The reality is, when it comes to chips, we have some important work to do, so I want to take just a few minutes to describe why it is so essential for the Congress to get this legislation done now.

First of all, our bill is going to bring down costs for consumers and businesses. Everybody knows there are chips in laptops, phones, and cars, but there are also chips in refrigerators and even vacuum cleaners, as we saw at Stark's in Southeast Portland recently.

From the time you pick your head up off your pillow until the time you go to bed at night, you are interacting with chips. That is what made it such an economic nightmare when the pandemic hit and the supply of semiconductors got cut short. Prices for a host of important goods went into the stratosphere. Some products weren't available at all. Factories in America went dark because they couldn't get component parts. Anybody who has had to buy a car in the last few years probably can tell you a horror story about the buying process.

This legislation is going to go a long way to increasing the production and manufacturing of chips in this country and bringing down consumer costs and addressing the shortages by increasing the supply here in America.

That leads to my second point. Investing in domestic chip production is going to create a huge, huge number of good-paying jobs. Oregonians know well that the jobs at these chipmakers can become an economic fuel for a whole region in the country. We need to guarantee that investment happens here in America instead of overseas.

Third, the bill is going to help shore up our national security and our economic security. With respect to the economy, when there aren't enough chips to keep our factories running and our shelves stocked, workers and the American economic system suffer.

And when the vast majority of chips are produced in just a few sites overseas, there is a big risk that the United States won't be able to get its hands on the chips needed to keep the American people safe in a conflict.

I am a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. I can't get involved in classified matters that I

have some access to. But I want everybody in the Senate to know this is a top-tier national security issue. Producing more chips here at home means that our economy will be more resilient for the days ahead and our country will be safer and more secure.

One last comment in this short statement. The Senate passed a larger version of this bill last year, and it included a trade package that Senator CRAPO and I, our colleague from Idaho, worked together on. It focused on cracking down on China's worst trade abuses, including the horrendous practice of forced labor, including proposals that went after authoritarian censorship overseas and a growing danger of freedom of speech here in America.

I also sought to update the system for job training and workers' support, so key to our workers having access to high-skill, high-wage jobs. That trade package is not included in this slimmed-down version of the CHIPS legislation. I can promise, however, as chairman of the Finance Committee, we will keep working on these issues.

Cracking down on trade cheats, fighting for investments and jobs in America is at the top of the priority list for the Finance Committee. I look forward to continuing our work on those issues in the weeks and months ahead.

This legislation is long overdue. It is a serious, fresh commitment to innovation in America. I am proud that I was able to lead the effort in the Senate Finance Committee to focus on producing and manufacturing more semiconductors in America. It is hugely important for my State, which really does research and development for the entire country. But it is important for all Americans every single day because, from the time you get up in the morning until the time you go to bed at night, you are using these chips. This is, in my view, the first step of many that we have to take to promote more innovation and the path to creating high-skill and high-wage jobs in America.

Let's take the first step with this important legislation. Pass this bill. I urge my colleagues to vote for it later when we get to the final vote.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

INFLATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the economic crisis that this Nation is facing, all as a result of the actions of the Democrats and Joe Biden.

Right now, Joe Biden is on his way to Massachusetts. He is expected to announce, while he is there, even more restrictions on American energy. One New England Senator has lobbied him to go "executive Beast Mode." The Senator might forget that we still have a Constitution. The Supreme Court just ruled that the President can't do that. The Constitution says Congress writes the laws and it is up to the President to enforce them.

I would also remind that Senator that Joe Biden just got back from a trip to the Middle East. That is where he went to beg the Saudis to produce and to sell us more oil. Joe Biden doesn't need to fly around the world to solve the energy crisis that he created. The solution is right here at home in America. We have some of the largest energy reserves in the world. We have the best energy workers. We have the highest standards. Yet Joe Biden won't let go of his stranglehold on American energy. Joe Biden would rather send our money and more and more money to the Middle East than let us use the energy we have sitting right here in the ground in the United States.

Joe Biden has created the worst energy crisis for our country in the last 40 years—40—40 years. Gas prices today in my home State of Wyoming and all across the country are more than \$2 per gallon higher than they were the day Joe Biden took office.

The spot price of natural gas has tripled under Joe Biden and that means even higher prices are on the way. Natural gas powers half of the homes in America and the price of that natural gas has tripled under Joe Biden.

Last year, Joe Biden's energy policies cost the average American family more than \$1,000. That was last year. This year it is going to be higher than that. Higher energy costs are driving up the costs of everything—almost everything—because energy is such a vital part of our nation's economy.

Higher energy costs have led to the worst inflation crisis in 40 years—worst inflation in 40 years. Under Joe Biden, inflation has hit record highs. In the previous administration, inflation was nearly nonexistent. But for 15 months in a row now, prices have gone up. And not just have prices gone up, they have gone up faster and faster than wages have gone up. With every passing month, working families can afford less than they could the month before.

This is Joe Biden's America. This is what he brought and the Democrats who supported him in position and policy after each, one after another.

This year, the average family will pay \$100 a week more just to buy the same things they bought last year. Just to stay even, it is \$100 a week more. That is over \$5,000 for the year. One hundred dollars a week adds up very quickly. As a result, people are spending their savings because they are not making enough to keep up. They are falling behind. They are borrowing money just to get by.

The savings rate in the country has plummeted to the lowest level since the Great Recession of 2009. Credit card debts are at an alltime high because people can't afford things and are putting things on the credit cards. Personal debt is at an alltime high. Consumer confidence, on the other hand, is at an alltime low—thank you, Joe Biden and Democrats.

Working families are being pushed to the breaking point. That is what we

have here in America today. All told, it is the summer of strain and stress and suffering for American families. It is all happening because of the dereliction of duty on the part of the United States and the Democrats in this very body. The American people just want to be able to actually have enough money in their wallet to fill their tank with gas and to go to the grocery store and buy a full week's worth of groceries and have enough left over at the end of the month to pay their bills. Yet under Joe Biden and the Democrats, who are in charge of both the House and the Senate, this is becoming nearly impossible in America today.

Democrats call this the cost of the "liberal world order"—the liberal world order. Look what it is getting us. Believe it or not, that is exactly what the White House has said. That is their official policy on the cost of inflation and the cost of energy being so high: Tough; suck it up. "Liberal world order." We are here now. I don't care what it costs you or what pain and suffering we put onto the families of this country.

Meanwhile, as the President is going to talk about his climate emergency in Massachusetts, baby formula is still out of stock in stores all across America. For 15 months, there has been nothing but bad news coming from this administration and the Democrats for the working families in this country.

Last week, working families got a one-two punch of even more bad news. First, they found out that, once again, inflation is at another 40-year high. They also found out it is not going away any time soon. On Thursday, we found out that what is called wholesale inflation—which is the inflation that our producers are experiencing—is even worse than the inflation for consumers.

These are the people who build our homes, who grow our food, keep the lights on. Higher costs for them mean higher costs are coming for all the rest of American families because, if inflation is higher for producers today, inflation for consumers tomorrow will be higher than it is today. It means there is no light at the end of the tunnel.

But that is not what Joe Biden is telling us. He has continued to say: Oh, inflation is transitory. Pay no attention to the fact you can't pay your bills, you can't buy enough food to feed your family, and you can't fill your car with gasoline. Tough. Pay no attention.

He said on Thursday that the inflation numbers we are using are "out of date." He is out of date. Joe Biden is essentially saying inflation peaked before the Fourth of July. That is what he told the American people. Well, remember the last time Joe Biden said inflation peaked? That was last year in December he said it peaked. What has happened over the last 7 months to this country and to families? It is now July, and inflation has broken new records three more times in just the last 6 months.

Is he clueless? Does he believe what he is saying? And who is surrounding him at the White House? Joe Biden was wrong in December; he is wrong now. He has been wrong every step of the way, and yet Democrats blindly follow him right over the cliff.

First, he created the inflation crisis; then he denied it existed. Oh, then he said it was transitory. I think it was a year ago yesterday, he said it was transitory. Then at one point, the White House even said inflation was a good thing. It is not good for American families, not good for the men and women who go to work every day. Then Biden decided, let's start blaming everyone but ourselves.

At every step of this crisis, Joe Biden has told the public things that were simply not true. Joe Biden keeps trying to downplay the pain and the suffering going on all across the country. In fact, 1 year ago yesterday, Joe Biden said inflation would be temporary. He was wrong. The Democrats running Washington right now are completely out of touch—I mean, completely out of touch with the American people as Members of this body say: Yeah, Joe, go to Boston. Declare a climate emergency to claim a crisis.

There are a lot of crises in America today; climate is not one of them. There is an inflation crisis, an energy crisis, a border crisis, a crime crisis. There is a crisis in the White House of competence and credibility. But no, Joe Biden has other things on his mind—a climate crisis. Only 1 percent of Americans list that as a key item in their lives—only 3 percent of Democrats; only 3 percent of people under the age of 30. Everybody is focused on inflation. Joe Biden is going to Boston to talk about climate.

We have today, in this country, with the Democratic Party, a government of the elites, by the elites, for the elites. The Democratic Party has completely forgotten about the working men and women in America. For more proof of that, the Democrats are talking about more reckless taxing, more reckless spending.

When did the inflation crisis start? Right after the Democrats passed their last spending bill in March of last year when they put \$2 trillion on America's credit card—party-line vote for massive government spending. They bailed out bankrupt blue States. The Democrats spent \$2 trillion, triggered inflation, triggered a nightmare—a nightmare, I tell you—that has been robbing the American people of \$100 every single week since then.

Democrats must have enjoyed their shopping spree because they spent the second half of last year trying to pass an even bigger, more reckless spending bill. Here they are again, trying it once again. It was reckless then; it is reckless now.

And the President's poll numbers continue to plummet because the American people say you are focused on the wrong thing, you are ignoring our needs.

You are abandoning the people. You have abandoned them, and that is why so few people think the country is heading in the right direction, and so many people are looking for a change. Democrats don't seem to care. They know they are about to face the voters in November and can see the handwriting on the wall, and they can hear the clock ticking.

The reason why inflation is out of control, at 40-year record highs, is because of the massive spending combined with the attacks by this administration and the Democrats in this body on American energy. That is what is causing the price of everything from gas to groceries to hit one record high after another.

The Democrats have spent us into record-high inflation. Now it seems that they want to tax us into a recession. The last thing the American people now need is more spending, more taxes, more debt. What we need is more American energy.

The way to get out of this crisis is to stop the reckless spending and increase the supply of American energy. We don't need to look halfway around the world for energy; we have it right here in this country. It is time for the President of the United States to stop begging, and it is time to start exploring for the energy right here in America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I have had the privilege of serving with Senator BARRASSO. For any number of years, we were the coleads on the Environment and Public Works Committee. We actually found common ground on a whole lot of issues and disagreed on a number of them as well. But on a personal level, we have, I think, a very good friendship and have had for a number of years good collaboration on Environment and Public Works.

I disagree with almost everything he said—almost everything he said—and I am not a disagreeable person, but I always look for common ground, and I am sorry to say I didn't hear a whole lot from him today to do that.

The suggestion that somehow we shouldn't be concerned about climate change, the climate crisis that has visited our planet—a couple of points I just want to share. This is off the news yesterday, the day before, Monday, Tuesday of this week.

The United Kingdom broke its record for the highest recorded temperature multiple times on Monday, reaching 104.4 degrees Fahrenheit. In Great Britain, for the most part, they don't have air-conditioning. Record temperature—104.4 degrees just on Monday alone. There are airport runways in Great Britain that are melting—that is right, melting—because it is so hot.

The railways in the United States are buckling from the heat, with riders warned to stay home—to stay home.

Over 1,100 people have died in Spain and Portugal just in the last week from heat-related causes.

Wildfires in France have forced 30,000 people—that is about as many people as we have in Dover, DE, our State capital—30,000 people to evacuate. Organizers plan to pour tens of thousands of liters of water onto the Tour de France route—it is a huge, international bicycle competition—to prevent the road from melting in the heat.

More than 40 million people in the United States are under extreme heat warnings across the Great Plains and California. Around 60 million Americans will likely see temperatures at or above 100 degrees—not this year, not this month, this week. Nearly 60 percent of California is dealing with excessive drought, while 20 percent of Texas—it is 5 percent worse than last week—experiences exceptional drought, the most extreme level on the drought scale. Firefighters this week are currently battling 89—that is right, 89—large fires in 12 States in the United States.

That is just off the news pages of 2 days ago.

Amid calls to lower the price of gasoline, I rise to speak on the news this week regarding climate change.

There is no doubt that we are living in unprecedented times as a nation and as a planet. After an unprecedented pandemic ground our global economy to a halt, Americans have been struggling to return to “normal.”

As we saw in the news earlier this year, unprecedented supply chain issues from the pandemic, along with Vladimir Putin's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, have caused gas prices to rise until this month—until this month. We know that this in turn has fueled inflation and put economic strain on families and small businesses across our country.

President Biden has responded to this challenge with unprecedented action, rallying our global partners and releasing record amounts of oil from our Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The result has garnered less attention from the media. Over the past 34 days, gasoline prices have declined by more than half a dollar per gallon. I will say that again. Over the past 34 days, gasoline prices have declined by more than 50 cents per gallon—the fastest decline in over a decade. More than 20,000 gas stations across our country are now offering gas for under \$4 per gallon. Leading economists expect this decline in gas prices to continue, maybe even to accelerate.

In addition, our Nation is on track to surpass our historic, prepandemic levels of oil production by 2023. I want to say that again. In addition, our Nation is on track to surpass our historic, prepandemic levels of oil production by 2023—next year.

Still, these are short-term solutions that leave Americans susceptible to higher gas prices. Why? It is the global market that largely determines gaso-

line prices. That means that as long as our economy runs mostly on fossil fuels, energy prices will continue to be volatile to the forces outside our Nation. We cannot drill our way out of this problem.

In the long run, the best way to ensure that American families have access to lower prices at the pump is by reducing our dependence on foreign oil and on fossil fuels. I want to say that again. In the long run, the best way we can ensure that American families have access to lower prices at the pump is by reducing our dependence on fossil fuels. Doing so isn't just critical for protecting Americans from high energy costs; it is necessary for addressing the existential threat of climate change.

Make no mistake, the climate crisis is here. It is here. It is in Europe. It is in Asia. It is in South America. It is in Africa. It is all over the world.

We see it in the form of unprecedented heat waves currently impacting millions of people across Europe, as I suggested, and our country too.

We see climate change in the form of unprecedented drought, driving wildfires across the Western United States that are bigger than my State. Currently, firefighters are battling, as I said, 89 large fires in 12 States, and it is only expected to get worse. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—we call them NOAA—the decades-long megadrought in the American West is not just persisting, it is intensifying and expanding east, worsening the threat of additional wildfires.

We see climate change in the form of rising sea levels that produce waves able to wipe out weddings in Hawaii just last weekend.

This event is a real-life consequence of what experts have already told us: Sea levels are rising faster than they have in more than 3,000 years and are expected to rise by an additional foot by 2050.

We know this firsthand in Delaware. Delaware is the first State. The lowest lying State in America is Delaware. Our State is sinking. The seas around us are rising.

Down in Louisiana, a big State in another part of the country, they are experiencing sea level rise as well. In the State of Louisiana, you know what, every 100 minutes—every 100 minutes—they lose a piece of land to the sea the size of a football field in Louisiana. I will say that again. Every 100 minutes in Louisiana, they lose a piece of land the size of a football field—every 100 minutes.

We see climate change in the form of sea levels rising all up and down the east coast, down to Florida, gulf coast, east coast, west coast, everywhere.

The extreme weather is costing us. According to an analysis of data from NOAA and the global reinsurance company Munich Re, severe weather caused more than \$121 billion—billion with a “b”—in property damage in the United States between 2017 and 2021—\$121 billion. That is an average of about \$940