

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 612.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Alan Davidson, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant 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. 612, Alan Davidson, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

Charles E. Schumer, Maria Cantwell, Patrick J. Leahy, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Gary C. Peters, Chris Van Hollen, Jeanne Shaheen, Tina Smith, Sheldon Whitehouse, Thomas R. Carper, Mazie Hirono, John W. Hickenlooper, Edward J. Markey, Jack Reed, Jacky Rosen, Tammy Baldwin.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 465.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Amitabha Bose,

of New Jersey, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant 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. 465, Amitabha Bose, of New Jersey, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration.

Charles E. Schumer, Maria Cantwell, Patrick J. Leahy, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Gary C. Peters, Chris Van Hollen, Jeanne Shaheen, Jack Reed, Tina Smith, Thomas R. Carper, Mazie K. Hirono, John W. Hickenlooper, Edward J. Markey, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jacky Rosen, Tammy Baldwin.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, January 5, be waived.

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

The Senator from Kansas.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, it was 2 years ago this month that I stood on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives and was the first person to speak about a novel coronavirus, soon to be called COVID-19. Two years ago, I had been reading about this virus for several weeks, and something in my gut as a physician told me this was not going to be a common cold. I chatted with the CDC, and I implored them to start doing research on the origins of the virus, asking "Was it from nature or from a laboratory?" and that we needed to work on vaccines, therapeutics, and testing.

As we all know, the development of an American vaccine, thanks to Operation Warp Speed, was successful. As for the testing, we know the CDC fumbled it, but the private sector saved us. And therapeutics? Not so much. Therapeutics have never been a priority for this administration.

As we return to our Nation's Capital, I would venture to say that very few Americans didn't have somebody in their families catch Omicron, and my family was no different. We shared the same experience as millions of other Americans did. Despite being vaccinated, one of my loved ones with underlying healthcare conditions caught the Omicron virus. As I saw my loved one start having asthma, wheezing, and become short of breath, I did what every spouse would do and said: Well, we need to go get tested. We need to talk to a doctor.

So we drove to several testing sites, and we had the option of standing in line for 3 or 4 hours with sick people. If we didn't have the Omicron, we cer-

tainly would have by the time we left. We called around and finally were able to get an appointment the next day for testing.

I am not sure if you have ever seen a person with asthma, but you can see the distress in their face as they wheeze, as they become short of breath. This is something with which I am all too familiar. I have taken care of thousands of women, pregnant women, with asthma. I have been in the emergency room with them, having to admit them to the ICU, and I knew that was the road that we were headed to.

I called around, hoping to find some monoclonal antibodies—a place where we could go and we could get monoclonal antibodies. Then there is this new miracle of biotherapeutics out there. I thought, well, maybe we could get those, but none were to be had.

In watching my wife continue to suffer, I decided, you know, I think we need to do some type of telemedicine. So we called a doctor and set up a telemedicine visit—someone who had taken care of thousands of patients with the coronavirus. We did the appointment, and he prescribed Ivermectin for her. After the first tablet, it was a miracle. Within an hour, her labored breathing had settled down. By the next day, her second dose, she was almost completely better right before my eyes.

Again, I remind everybody it has been 2 years since this pandemic started, and we still have limited access to therapeutics. Again, as we all know, the Biden administration's approach to this is to put all of their eggs in one basket. They believed in a one-size-fits-all approach. Vaccine mandates, masks, and testing was their prescription to getting us through this pandemic. All of those have had a place, and all of them have had some successes, but when a million people in 1 day are testing positive, it is not surprising we can't keep up with the testing, and that is why we need therapeutics.

In fact, the Federal Government has allocated over \$80 billion for testing—\$80 billion for testing—and only \$15 billion for therapeutics. This is simply unacceptable. We are 2 years into this pandemic, and we have only spent \$15 billion on therapeutics. The Biden administration should have already established an Operation-Warp-Speed approach to the development, manufacturing, and distribution of therapeutics.

It just always seems like this administration has been a day late and a dollar short. For example, in mid-2021, we saw the Delta wave coming. We all knew it was coming, and we had real-world evidence in the summer of 2021 to suggest that a booster shot would be helpful for seniors and at-risk individuals. It was in June of 2020 that I asked the CDC and the FDA to consider letting physicians meet with their patients and prescribe a booster ahead of

the Delta wave—again, in the summer of 2020.

Unfortunately, the FDA waited until September 22 to approve the booster. Between June and September, more than 11,000 seniors died from breakthrough infections, while more than 230,000 people tested positive. No doubt, a booster and/or therapeutics could have made a big difference in these seniors' lives.

It is easy to talk about the mistakes we have made with this virus. I want to spend a moment talking about solutions, though.

We need to unleash our community health centers and our county health departments in this COVID-19 fight. They have been the backbone of vaccination and treatment for communicable diseases for decades.

Once the Biden administration agrees to prioritize therapeutics, we need community health centers and county health departments to take over the telemedicine visits with trained nurses and implement treatment protocols across the United States.

In Kansas alone, we have over 200 community health centers and clinics funded with Federal dollars, along with over 100 local health departments that are accustomed to dealing with infectious diseases on a daily basis. These folks can implement these protocols based upon triaging at-risk individuals and starting early treatment. This will prevent many trips to the ER, as well as hospitalizations. Early treatment is what works.

Finally, and this goes without saying, I trust these nurses to make necessary referrals to the emergency room. They can do this. How do I know it? I have worked with these nurses for 30 years. I helped sponsor—was the medical director for three county health departments for almost 30 years. They do an incredible job. They are well equipped to handle this effort, but they need the Biden administration to move on therapeutics and move fast.

The medicines you could get for less than \$100 can oftentimes prevent hospitalizations and ICU visits. We need to give doctors the options of using therapeutics, along with steroids, anti-inflammatories, and other standard protocols that have been developed by these physicians who have treated literally thousands of COVID-19 patients.

Certainly, if we have better access to monoclonal antibodies or if these new miracle antiviral agents were available, we could use them as well. But, please, let's empower physicians and these health departments and community health centers, these experienced nurses, to do their job.

Time is precious. We cannot afford additional delays. We can't afford more confusion, more mixed messaging, and more mixed management. The Biden administration must let patients and physicians decide what is best in their unique healthcare situation, not somebody who is sitting on a throne in Washington, DC, who seldom sees patients in the real world.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. I thank the Presiding Officer from Minnesota.

RECOGNIZING JANUARY 6 WORKERS

Madam President, I want to start by thanking my colleagues Leader SCHUMER and Senator KLOBUCHAR for their work to honor the police officers who risked their lives to protect this country 1 year ago tomorrow.

In the year since that dark day, we have learned more about all that those officers endured from the terrorists who stormed the Capitol—the racist slurs, the physical abuse, the mental injuries. We know things were so much worse than they appeared in the original reporting as more and more details have come out. These terrorists gouged someone's eyes out. They killed a Capitol Police officer and injured 140 others. They threatened to kill the Vice President. They brought a noose to the Capitol and paraded symbols of White supremacy. In fact, the people who broke into the office upstairs from my office in the Capitol—we have this on film—used flagpoles with Confederate flags and Trump flags attached to them. They brought equipment to take hostages.

It wasn't only Capitol Police officers who endured this attack and put their lives on the line serving our Republic on January 6. Workers throughout the Capitol risked everything that day, workers who do the radio and television broadcast and work in the media center, workers who work the floor, workers who clean up, and workers who do food service. They often don't get noticed, like the Capitol support staff. Every day, Capitol janitorial and maintenance and other workers, essential workers, do their jobs with skill and dedication and dignity. They have shown up for work during this pandemic.

Those workers were here on January 6 doing their jobs when the insurrectionists, when the rioters, when the—call it what you want—traitors stormed this building, barging into this Chamber, acting as if no one would ever hold them responsible or accountable for their violence, for their disregard for American values and for U.S. laws.

When the rampage was over, we know it was the largely Black and Brown custodial maintenance workers who were left to restore dignity to the Capitol. Their work, first of all, allowed us to come back and continue our work at 8 that night certifying the electoral votes and securing our democracy. As we know, domestic terrorists destroyed; Black and Brown custodians cleaned up; and maintenance workers, carpenters, painters, and union members rebuilt. Today, we honor them.

Some of the most enduring and moving images of that day are the pictures of these workers sweeping up the mess that terrorists made in the people's houses.

That night, after we voted—the Senator from Minnesota was there. We were all here voting in this Chamber. After the police and the National Guard—the DC Police, the Capitol Police, and others—after they cleared the terrorists out of this building, we came back at 8 and voted. I spent the night in the basement in my office. I live a 20-minute walk away. I really didn't want to walk home that night. But I walked around about midnight, walked around this building, over in the House and the Senate. I saw the destruction. I saw the window right upstairs from me, the half-moon window that terrorists, with their flagpoles with their Confederate flags and their Trump flags attached, broke through.

When I was back there at midnight that night, already the cleanup from the custodians had started, cleaning up after they had been threatened. After they had been called names as Black women, as immigrant women, after they had been called names by the terrorists, they were back there cleaning up. Already, a carpenter had cut a half-moon piece of plywood and nailed it to that window to keep this building safe and keep the elements out.

We honor those people today. It is what service looks like. It is what love of country looks like. It is what the dignity of work looks like. It tells you a lot about what is wrong with our economy. These essential workers—the people who prepare the food, the people who clean up, the people who provide security—the essential workers, like so many of their fellow service workers around this country, don't make a lot of money. They don't get much attention. They don't get much reward. They don't have much power. We simply don't value and respect all work the way we should.

I think of the words of Dr. King. One of my favorite Dr. King quotes is this:

If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, "Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well."

Dr. King said:

No work is insignificant. All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance.

He later said that no job with adequate compensation is menial.

Look at the words of Pope Francis a few days ago in his Christmas Eve address or think back 100 years, 120 years, to Pope Leo, the labor Pope, in *Rerum Novarum*, where he first introduced—at least in my view—first introduced the term, I assume in Latin, "dignity of work."

Pope Francis, in his Christmas Eve address just a few days ago, said:

[God] reminds us of the importance of granting dignity to men and women through [their] labour, [and] also . . . granting dignity to human labour itself.

Those are Pope Francis's words.

No work is insignificant. All labor has dignity. We ought to treat it that